The National

Future Farmer

August-September, 1975

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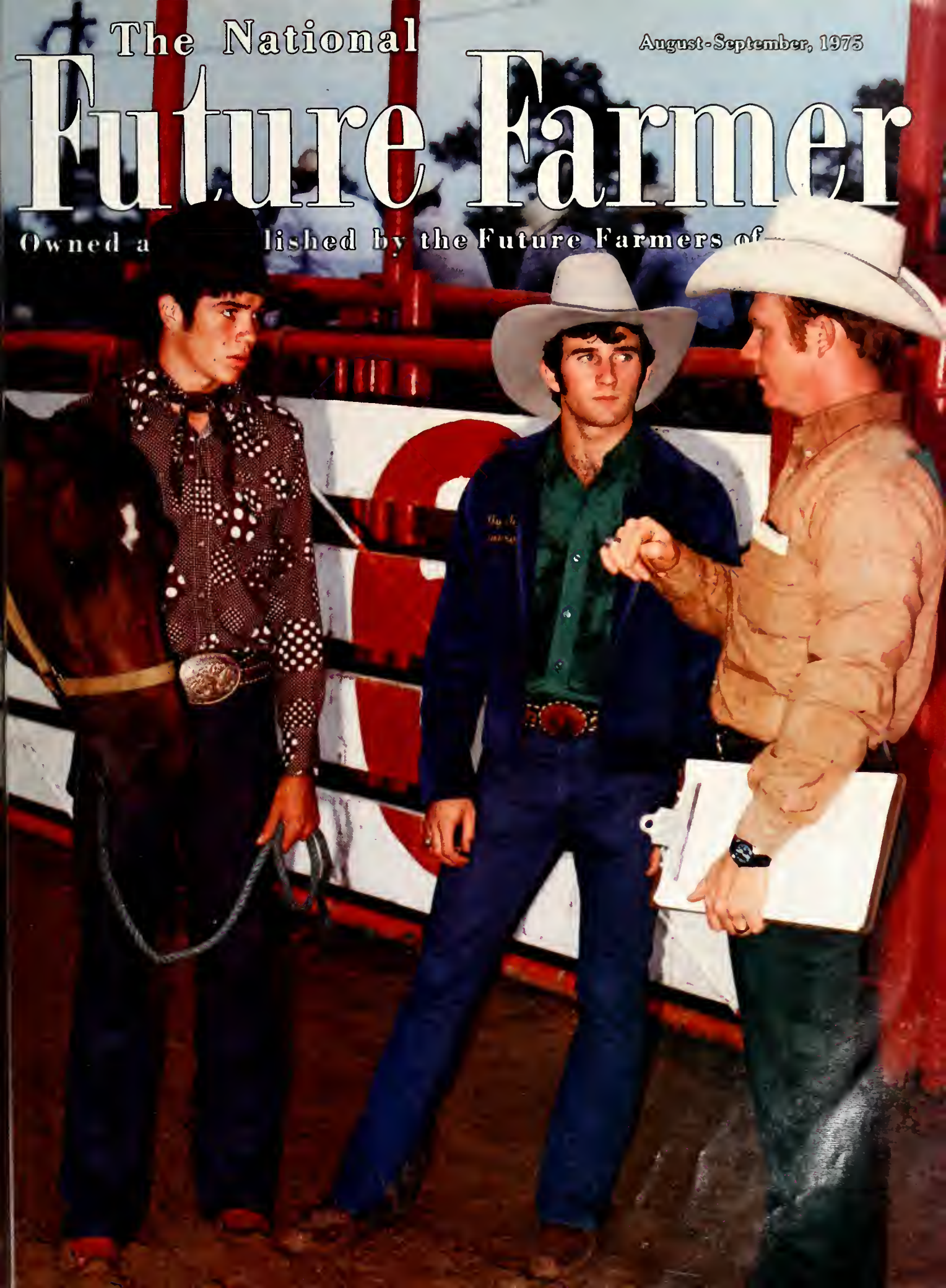

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A Word With The Editor

Will Earl Butz's Dream for American Agriculture Come True?

It was my pleasure to travel with Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz on a trip to South America, June 17-25. We made one stop in Venezuela and three stops in Brazil. During this time, I had the opportunity to develop a better understanding of the Secretary's dream (or plan) for American agriculture. Will it come true?

If it does, farmers will have complete freedom to produce without government controls. Farmers will receive a "profit" earned in the market place and not through government subsidy. The American consumer will enjoy the cheapest food prices because farmers will be producing at full production and maximum efficiency. And we will have an excess of many farm commodities to share with our neighbors throughout the world through exports and thereby make a major contribution to world peace and at the same time help keep the United States healthy economically with a favorable balance of trade.

If it doesn't work, as the Secretary himself admits, the alternative is some type of government support with some type of controls.

It would seem that this is the year of decision—when we are engaged in a great experiment regarding agriculture in the United States. Can we find satisfactory markets for the bumper crops now being produced at prices profitable to the farmer?

In some ways this is the most exciting year for agriculture that I can remember in my lifetime and surely must be for you. Certainly the outcome will determine the kind of farm policy that will exist in the United States for many years.

No one has a bigger stake in this than you—the members of FFA—because your future in agriculture will be vitally affected by what takes place this year on the farms and in the market place. You will want to follow developments carefully throughout the remainder of this year.

Wilson Carnes

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The Cover

FFA chapter president Joe Regan from Sulphur, Louisiana, talks over rodeo preparations with Mark Kinney, one of chapter's best cowboys and Kent Le Doux, former chapter president and active adult leader in rodeo program. The Sulphur Chapter will host the National High School Rodeo Championships in 1976. (See story Page 18.)

Cover photo by Gary Bye

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Dr. W. T. Spanton, 1891-1975

"I RESPECT highly the work you are doing but I wouldn't trade jobs with you. I love so much working with the farm youth of America." This is the way Dr. W. T. Spanton once described the job of being National FFA Advisor to the president of a major corporation as they walked down a street in Kansas City, Missouri. And for 20 years he held that position —longer than any other person.

On May 16, Dr. Spanton died at age 84, after a long illness, in Fairview Southdale Hospital in Minneapolis. His career in agricultural education spanned 46 years during which he was involved in founding of the Future Farmers of America and served as the organization's national advisor from 1941 to 1961.

Under Dr. Spanton's leadership as National FFA Advisor, the FFA came into its own as an organization. The Future Farmers of America Foundation, Inc. was established in 1944, the Federal Charter was granted to the FFA by Congress in 1950, the National FFA Supply Service was started in 1948, *The National FUTURE FARMER* magazine was founded in 1952 and the main building was constructed at the National FFA Center. Dr. Spanton was proud of the FFA building because it was "built by the boys," he would say.

Dr. Spanton was present when the FFA was organized in Kansas City, Missouri, in 1928. He was assigned to help prepare a constitution which was adopted at the first National Convention.

Born in a log cabin October 25, 1891, on a bluegrass farm near Independence, Kentucky, Spanton moved to Ohio with his parents in 1897. He is a graduate of the Ohio State University and later earned his PhD. from American University in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Spanton's career began as a teacher in Ohio schools in 1916. In 1919 he became the first State Supervisor of vocational agriculture and teacher trainer in Rhode Island and left there to become State Supervisor in Missouri. In 1925, Spanton moved to Washington, D.C. where he became a federal agent for agricultural education in the 11 Western states of the Pacific region.

In his new position as federal agent for agricultural education, Spanton was active in the first and second national congress for students of vocational agriculture in Kansas City, Missouri, in 1926-27. The congress, held in conjunction with the American Royal Livestock Show, provided the impetus for the organization of the FFA.

On the retirement of J. A. Lenke in 1941, Dr. Spanton became chief of the agricultural education service and National FFA Advisor, a post he held until his retirement at age 70 in 1961.

Dr. Spanton had many awards and honors to his credit. He served on the national council at large of the Boy Scouts of America and was awarded the Silver Buffalo award in recognition of his service to that organization. In 1931 he received the Honorary American Farmer degree from the FFA. In 1959 he received the Distinguished Service award from the American Agricultural Editors' Association for his contribution to American agriculture. He was also a member of the Alpha Zeta agriculture honorary fraternity, the National Grange, and the Masons (Knight Templar). He received the Distinguished Service award from the Ohio State University and the Philadelphia Agricultural award by the Philadelphia Society for promoting agriculture in 1962.

Quietly Dr. Spanton maintained his station by the FFA's "time honored emblem of knowledge and wisdom." Patiently he watched outstanding young leaders work out the problem of a growing organization as the FFA continued to grow in membership and stature. But when the really big hurdles came he was always ready with his advice and he advised wisely—firmly, too.

Dr. Spanton never forgot his rural background nor lost his love for agriculture. As long as he worked in Washington he kept a picture of the log cabin where he was born under the glass on his desk.

Surviving is one son, William F. Spanton, an executive with an insurance company in Minneapolis. Mrs. Spanton died in 1968.

So much could be said about Dr. Spanton. But this excerpt from a resolution passed by the Missouri House of Representatives on June 2 says it so well.

". . . Dr. Spanton was truly a rare and unique individual, dedicated to the highest principles and moral values, and his dedication to the Future Farmers of America program has molded and shaped countless thousands of young lives in Missouri and across the nation, and his name will forever be remembered by all who came to know him . . ."

Dr. Spanton and the 1961 officers, the last group he advised with his "true knowledge ripened with wisdom."

From this log cabin in Kentucky, Dr. Spanton rose to the highest agricultural education post in the nation.

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Looking Ahead

Agriculture

U.S. COWS TOP OTHERS IN ANNUAL MILK OUTPUT—Of all the cattle in the world's major dairy-producing countries, U.S. cows are the most productive.They churn out an average of slightly over 10,000 pounds of milk each year, according to 1973 statistics. Only the cows of Japan's small dairy industry yielded more, close to 12,000 pounds. No other country broke the 10,000 pound mark. The Netherlands followed by Norway, Denmark, and Sweden all rank around the 9,000-pounds level.

CONDITIONS IN NONMETRO AMERICA REPORTED—Population grew faster in nonmetro than in metro counties from 1970 to 1973, reflecting a shift of people from cities to smaller communities, according to a report by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The study also reported that nonmetro employment increased twice as fast as metro employment between 1970 and 1973, explaining in part the change in population trends toward nonmetro areas.

SHELVES WELL STOCKED—Farmers shopping for supplies are finding the shelves well stocked, compared to last year, at least. Price tags on the other hand, have not come down. Spot shortages of gas are expected although gasoline and diesel fuels should prove adequate. Fertilizer supplies are improved over last year. You can also get small machinery items without much trouble. For the big items expect delivery delays.

BETTER BEEF GRADES—USDA officials went back to the drawing boards and came up with a revised set of standards for grading beef. In effect since April 14, the revised standards allow slightly leaner beef to qualify for Prime and Choice grades; make the Good grade more restrictive; make eating characteristics—tenderness, juiciness, and flavor more uniform in each grade and require that all graded beef be identified for yield (percentage of retail cuts) as well as quality.

HOG CHOLERA OUTBREAK—The first reported outbreak of hog cholera in more than a year has been reported from Hereford, Texas. Hog farmers across the country especially in the Southwest are urged to be alert to any further signs of the virus disease.

TANK UP FOR SAVINGS—High gasoline prices have been a hard pill to swallow for farmers who need large amounts to run their equipment. Fortunately for them, by purchasing large quantities in bulk, they can trim hundreds of dollars off their gas bills. In 1974, farmers purchasing in bulk saved an average five cents a gallon over those purchasing from service stations. Economic Research Service estimates that if all farmers had bought gas in bulk, they could have saved $96 million.

TWIN ROTOR CONCEPT INTRODUCED TO COMBINE LINE—A new twin rotor combine featuring a threshing technique designed to reduce crop damage and losses while improving harvesting speed and capacity has been announced by Sperry New Holland. The twin rotor combine, the Model TR-70, is in limited production for the current harvesting season, with expanded production scheduled for 1976. The twin rotor concept is a major breakthrough in combine designs, according to Donald A. Donovan, product manager. It does not contain the customary cylinder, concave and straw walkers. Instead the TR-70 has twin 17-inch diameter threshing and separating rotors in side-by-side relationship. These 88-inch long rotors extend length-wise through the combine.

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News in Brief

The FFA

JACKET SALES BREAK RECORD—The FFA Supply Service announced the sale of the one hundred thousandth FFA jacket on June 5, 1975. Sold to Terry Vierck of Dodgeland, Wisconsin, the sale marked the first time that jacket sales in one year exceeded the six figure mark. Total jacket sales reached 102,008. Supply Service sales for the year were over 3 million dollars, an increase of over one million in the last two years.

NATIONAL FFA OFFICERS GET TOGETHER—The National FFA Officer team and Executive Secretary Wm. Paul Gray met in Kansas City in June to begin planning for the National FFA Convention November 11-14. The planning session included a meeting with the Kansas City Advisory Committee on June 27.

WASHINGTON LEADERSHIP CONFERENCES IN PROGRESS—At the writing of this column, the fourth session of the Washington Conference Program is being held in Alexandria, Virginia, to give chapter leaders from across the nation a week of leadership training.

FIVE BY ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIPS—Five of the Washington Conference Program participants were sponsored by the National FFA Alumni Association. The scholarships were the first ever given. They were presented to Noble Sokolosky of Owasso, Oklahoma; Pat Stermer of Green Bay, Wisconsin; Mark Hodel of Roanoke, Illinois; Jim Heidenreich of Monmouth, Illinois; and Cheryl Watson of Marysville, Ohio. Each was selected by their state FFA Alumni Association. The number of leadership scholarships going to a state is based on its active FFA Alumni membership.

RECEIVES STATE FFA DEGREE—Jack Pitzer, associate editor of *The National FUTURE FARMER* magazine returned to his native Illinois in June to receive the Honorary Illinois FFA degree during the Illinois FFA Convention. Pitzer was a state FFA officer and has been on the magazine staff for ten years.

FFA WORK EXPERIENCE ABROAD PARTICIPANTS—The 1975 class of 50 FFA members representing 22 states visited the National FFA Center before departing for 15 participating host countries. Approximately 50 foreign students will also be hosted in the United States.

hunting hints

Here's something everyone who is just starting to use a pump-action shotgun should remember: Never hold the trigger down while working the action between shots. This could result in the second shell being fired unintentionally the instant the bolt is closed. Even though most newer pumps are equipped with a safety sear that prevents this, stay on the safe side and always release the trigger between shots.

H. G. TAPPLY, Editor — Field & Stream

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From the Mailbag

Readers Report

Jacksonville, Illinois

There is at least one high school in our area which is considering dropping their FFA program.

In order to generate support for the program, WJIL Radio ran 440 farm-oriented vignettes during National FFA WEEK. The vignettes were composed of interviews with many of the FFA students in our listening area, who expressed how FFA was influencing their careers, as well as their personal development.

Through these interviews, we hoped that the importance of FFA could be better understood. And also that the danger of losing an area FFA chapter or chapters would be lessened.

If you could suggest any other public relations programs designed to promote FFA, we would certainly appreciate your advice on how we might incorporate them in our programming.

Ron Gray
General Manager
WJIL Radio

Benson, Minnesota

I would like you to know this year as part of our career study in our elementary grades four through six we had a special event at a noon luncheon when we honored and promoted Future Farmers.

We invited as guests the members of the FFA, their instructor and implement dealers from our area to this luncheon.

Since we are a rich farming area we took a poll earlier in grades four, five and six to see who would like to be a farmer in 5, 10, or 15 years. Over 200 boys and girls signed.

So we recognized these boys and girls interests on that day.

Each of the Future Farmers wore the emblem and name tag. In the halls we had posters, pictures, farm related career ideas and the like.

Beatrice Hanson

Logan, Utah

As part of a Utah State University Magazine Article Writer's Workshop we are planning to present an extensive display of magazines published throughout the United States.

We would appreciate receiving a recent issue of your magazine to be included in this exhibit. After the workshop, the magazines will be turned over to the Communications Department Magazine Writing Laboratory.

Dick Harris
Utah State University

Lancaster, Ohio

The Lancaster FFA Chapter would like to know when the articles are due in for publication. We would appreciate knowing this information as soon as possible.

Deli Patterson

You may send articles at any time. They receive consideration for the next issue but frequently we have more material than we can use so they are scheduled for a later date. The best plan of course is when you have a good story, send it in.—Ed.

Chaska, Minnesota

I didn't get my copy of *The National FUTURE FARMER* for June-July and would like to have a copy.

Michelle Enger

We have checked our records and have found that your name is on the address labels for this issue, and your local post office has not returned this magazine to us. Please check with your local post office to see if your copy went astray there. If you still have a problem in receiving your magazine, please write to us again.

I have checked with my post office and they said there was no magazine. I would like you to try again.

We are really at a loss to determine why you have not been receiving your magazine. All our records show that it was mailed to you. We have not received it back from your local post office, so it must have been delivered to somebody.

Would you please check at home, and see if someone brought it in from the mailbox and forgot about it? Would that be possible?

In any event, we are sending you another copy of the June-July issue. If you don't receive the August-September issue which should be mailed at the end of this month, please let me know.

We do try to ensure the proper delivery of the national magazine to each FFA member—and we do everything we possibly can to do so.—Ed.

I have received my copy of the magazine and your letter of explanation. Thank you for the reply.

Theresa, New York

I received the June-July issue and was pleased with the State President Survey. It proved to be good reading and I enjoyed it greatly. However, there is one answer I have some comments on.

The question was..."What is one thing you would like to see changed in the FFA?" The answer I'm referring to is—"Change official dress, different colors for boys and girls." When girls were admitted into the Future Farmers of America six years ago, they were received as full fledged members; not full fledged female members!

The Future Farmers of America is one whole organization and is not categorized by sexes. A lot of our male members are just getting used to girls. Now, you go and put girls in different colors and it will just start a whole adaptation period all over again. Besides, I think the uniformity of colors is rather appealing, and helps our public image greatly.

Anyway, if you can't tell the boys from the girls by now...well, need I say more?

Carol Wright

Quebec, Canada

I would very much appreciate receiving a copy of Dennis Smith's speech who won the FFA Public Speaking Contest in Kansas City in 1972.

His speech was entitled "America's Greatest Industry, the Production of Waste." I understand that it has been published in the 1972 National Convention Proceedings.

I would also appreciate receiving any other material on public speaking which is available to FFA members on effective speaking.

Louis Bernard

Riverside, California

I read your article about the cap collection in the June-July issue. You're just starting your collection it sounds like. Well, I thought I'd write and tell you about my collection that now consists of 30 different truck, tractor, farm implement, feed and seed caps which I have set up in my bedroom on a hat pole.

I am planning on entering my collection at a large fair in San Bernardino, California, next March. By then I hope to have 40 or 50 caps for the fair.

I should get some more of them this summer in Oklahoma while working between farming and ranching. Then others I'll write for but most of them I buy from businesses.

Ron Courts

Here's the photograph Ron sent showing his display of the farm and agribusiness hats he managed to collect.

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Of course, when it comes to accuracy, the 39 is almost legendary. One big reason is its tapered barrel with Micro-Groove® rifling.

And to make sighting quick and easy, the 39 comes with an adjustable folding semi-buckhorn rear sight, and ramp front sight with Wide-Scan™ hood.

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Cash In On Your Interests

Ray Switzer, left, a partner in Switzer & Beeson Company at Sioux City market talks business with employee Barry Bramstedt, center, a former FFA member and Dave Mitchell right, market agent with Producers Commission Association. Above, a market agent moves cattle through weekly auction. Agents also sell through a private treaty or negotiation.

DOES this fit you? There's no room for me in the family operation. My supervised farming enterprise, mostly livestock, is not to the point where it can be considered a career. And, with the livestock economy in tatters, it suffered new setbacks. Even so, what I've learned, and the pleasure I get from livestock makes me feel "This is for me." Don't despair—your livestock interests can open up a door to a whole new livestock career.

What's more, it's a career where the demand for young people is great, a college degree is helpful but not required, and your vo-ag/FFA experience is considered an extremely valuable prerequisite. Starting salaries are in the range of $10,000 and earnings range all the way up to $30,000 plus. Additionally, interviews with those in the business indicate that there is also an opportunity to establish your own firm.

A Market Agent Career. The opportunity described is that of a market agent. That's the same person your dad may have called a "commission man." They are located at major stockyard markets like Sioux City, Iowa, or South St. Paul, Minnesota, two of the largest markets in the nation. Like so many ag-related professions, these people have changed a lot over the years. But they still remain as the only single link in the marketing chain that's interested in getting the most profit for the livestock producer. Asserts Ray Switzer, a partner in the firm of Switzer & Beeson Company at the Sioux City market, "The old terms no longer apply, we're really bargaining specialists."

What does this marketing agent or bargaining specialist do? He sells feeder supplies for the producer, either through the weekly feeder auction or via the daily private treaty market. Additionally, he sells slaughter livestock for the feeder by negotiating with the packer-buyer.

Qualifications. "The first qualification is desire and an interest in livestock," asserts Dave Mitchell, a market agent with Producers Commission Association, a nationwide marketing agent firm. He continues, "Some young men like machinery—others like livestock. For us, the livestock interest must be there if there is to be a career. We also feel that a young man must be industrious, because there is plenty of work in this business as in any other. Livestock marketing entails more than knowledge of livestock—you must be able to negotiate and trade. We like an individual who is outgoing in his personality, but not the old-time blustery salesman or commission man. It's most important, however, that he be able to meet people, because this is a livestock people oriented business."

Ray Switzer of the Switzer & Beeson Company notes that they have four college graduates working for their company, but notes that these include technical college graduates. "We have found that the graduate from a trade college, like Western Iowa Tech, is equivalent to a college graduate of a few years ago." Switzer also notes that vo-ag and FFA experience, particularly as it applies to livestock judging, is important to anyone trying to break into this career. "I'm reluctant to hire anyone who hasn't had FFA or 4-H experience."

Producers' Mitchell is just as emphatic about FFA and vo-ag experience: "Vocational education in agriculture is a definite plus, especially if the project or enterprise has included livestock experience. This indicates an early interest in livestock, as well as experience. We also like signs of a good education, college or a technical ag school, even though a college degree isn't essential."

Getting Started. How do you find your way into a career as a market agent? Mitchell and Switzer are good examples. Mitchell explains, "I was born and raised on a northwest Missouri farm, and I thought I was interested in agriculture and I knew I liked animals. When I finished school, it occurred to me that the market is where I would find animals. Thus, I went to the St. Joe stockyard market because I believed in the cooperative marketing concept

(Continued on Page 16)

Your Career

(Continued from Page 15)

and still do. I found work at the market and eventually wound up with Producers at the St. Joe market before coming to Sioux City."

While Mitchell started with Producers, one of the nation's largest marketing firms, Switzer began by getting into the business on his own. He explains, "I started in the market news service business doing a radio program right out of college. We eventually started the first TV market report, and I edited the Sioux City paper for 3½ years. I felt I had learned so much about marketing that I eventually decided to purchase the smallest firm on the market and I have worked my way up. Now, Switzer & Beeson is the largest independent cattle firm in the country." Additionally, Switzer is involved in a futures trading operation, as well as an international export business called Global Meats.

Where do you start if you're interested in breaking into this career? Advises Mitchell, "I would go to the stockyards company, like United Stockyards here at Sioux City. These people would have the contacts and know the openings." Adds Switzer, "The opportunities were never better for a young man to get into the business for himself. There are 24 firms on this market, but four firms do 55-60 percent of the business. That tells you that there are a lot of older people in the business and the statistics spell opportunity for the young person. It's up to the individual, but I know that a number of smaller firms are available. If a person doesn't want to get into the business for himself, there are opportunities with firms like ours, who not only offer a good starting salary, but we innovated a retirement program that is fully vested immediately. The young man doesn't need to stay here two or ten years to get his full value."

Livestock people love auctions. As this young man watches, he could just as easily be pondering a future career.

What to Expect. How does a typical market agent spend his time? "Most of our young men start out in the unglamorous area of working with livestock, feeding, watering and sorting. It's the kind of chore that a handler or yardsman performs. From there, a young man moves into the trading and negotiating area. Our days usually start early, just like the farmers, at 6:00. This work is usually caught up by noon, and our afternoons are spent calling on farmers, finding out about their livestock, and urging them to come with our firm," defined Mitchell.

Emphasizes Switzer, "Most of our men put 40-50,000 miles a year on each of our road cars. We have approximately 4,500 customers with cattle on feed and they are called on from one to six times per year. In this way, we keep pretty accurate tabs on our customers' cattle in a five-state area and try to call on one or two new customers per week. On the average, our people will spend two afternoons a week calling on customers, and all day Friday and some Saturdays."

Wave of the Future. It's also clear that marketing agents are convinced that their career provides rewards far beyond their take-home pay. They are proud of the fact that all of their customers are protected by bond, so that none of their customers could lose the $25 million reportedly lost by feeders who sold to the now-bankrupt American Beef Packing Company. Avows Switzer, "You are talking about a real challenge in this career, because we are bringing bargaining into a competitive situation. It's not like being a salaried buyer for a packer. We're selling the whole animal at its total value and strict beef selling is out the window. Grade and yield buying is a gimmick to get the whole animal for less than its true value in a non-competitive marketing situation. The marketing agent or bargaining specialist, as I like to call us, must get the total value for the animal, and that's the real challenge and the best for the livestock producer's future."

Concludes Mitchell, "There is a real feeling of professional pride, and a lot of it, in the livestock business. While we are all bonded for the seller's protection, there is as much pride in the fact that our customers know that our word is our bond."

NVATA President Honored

THE Flathead, Montana, Chapter of FFA was about to adjourn its annual Parent-Member banquet and meeting when Reporter Kevin Kephart asked to make a special announcement. It concerned FFA Advisor Luther Lalum who this year has reached his twenty-fifth year of teaching vocational agriculture.

As the unsuspecting Lalum and wife Marilyn stepped forward, a huge portrait was unveiled before them.

The portrait depicted Lalum with a background of FFA scenes and the time honored FFA insignia.

Lalum is currently president of the National Vocational Agriculture Teacher's Association—the first Montanan to have such an honor. He has served the NVATA as alternate vice president of Region 1, and NVATA Regional Vice President the last three years.

He has also served as President of the Montana Vocational Agriculture Teacher's Association. He holds the Honorary American Farmer degree and the Honorary State Farmer degree. Twenty-three of his teaching years have been spent at Flathead High School as co-instructor to Mr. Henry Robinson who was Lalum's high school agriculture teacher. He has been active in several other professional, general and vocational educational associations in addition to local civic, community and rural organizations.

He started the first adult Farm Management class in Flathead County which is a system of intensive record keeping.

Mr. Lalum with gift from his students.

Lalum graduated with a B.S. degree from Montana State at Bozeman in 1950 and started teaching at Fairview in the Yellowstone Valley that fall. Through the years, he has added a Master's degree in Agricultural Education.

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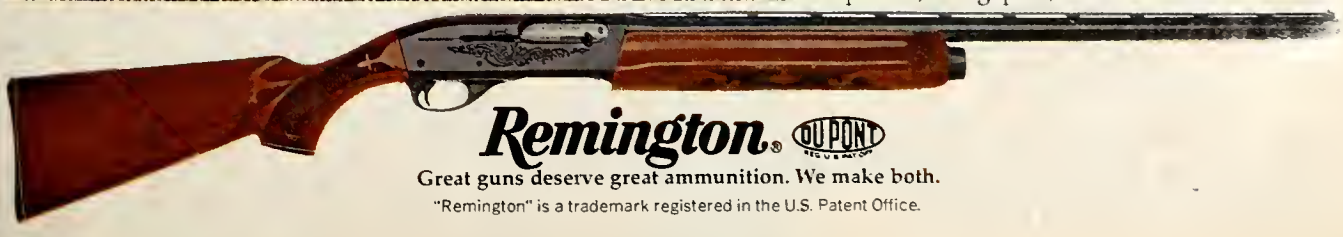

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FFA's CAJUN COWBOYS

The Sulphur, Louisiana, FFA Chapter prepares to host 1976 rodeo finals.

By Gary Bye

IN AREAS of Louisiana, rodeo is to FFA what alligators are to the bayou country. It's like part of the landscape passed on by nature from generation to generation.

Next year, Sulphur FFA gets the chance to bring part of their heritage back to town—the National High School Championship Rodeo. With it will come 1,500 talented teenage competitors, their horses, equipment, parents and friends, and an economic impact of $10,000,000 to the once small cow town. And despite the growing realization that the area is now richer in oil refineries than in cows, the return of the national championships, held there in 1951 and 1958, will bring fond memories for many of the Sulphur natives. One or two of the older hands can even guide you to his own trophy case to prove he took part.

Louisiana might seem a long way from the wild west for anyone who equates growing cattle with prairie dogs and cactus plants. But the people in that part of the South are quick to let you know that it was once, and still is a productive cattle raising area. The marshes that extend out toward the Gulf of Mexico produce some of the country's richest pasture. And this prairie land of the South has mothered much of rodeo's "rough stock." The cattle grow wild and strong from battling a rather hostile environment.

In 1949, at the urgings of then Sulphur agriculture teacher Dallas Fotenot, Louisiana joined with Texas and New Mexico to become charter members of the new National High School

Rodeo Association. That same year Sulphur High School built an arena (using mostly FFA labor) and 100 citizens made donations of $25 toward financing the first Sulphur rodeo. Forty-seven contestants took part.

Since then 25 other states have received charters from the national organization along with two Canadian provinces. Student membership exceeds 13,000 members and Louisiana members total over 400.

Louisiana (Sulphur especially) has produced impressive results in the arena and in leadership position. Vocational agriculture teacher Ellis Benckenstein (folks call him Benck) a veteran of 14 years of NHSRA leadership says since 1970, four national titles have been won by Louisiana high school participants. In addition the state has had the NHSRA queen and five national student officers. Chuck Kinney of Sulphur is now serving as National Vice President.

The Sulphur school rodeo complex, worth well over $1,000,000, sports a livestock barn which houses FFA projects during the year, and a rodeo office which also serves as an agricultural classroom. The twin arena seating presently serves 5,000 spectators and will be expanded to seat the 7,000 per day attendance expected for the finals. Since the first rodeo in 1949, Sulphur has annually hosted the state's finals.

One who has never seen high school members compete might think it's an easy-go version of the real thing. But dedicated rodeo-goers know the hard proof is in the action. The rough stock, the bulls and the broncs, come busting out of the chutes like a Gulf Coast hurricane headed inland. And the timed events show the hours and hours of dedicated daily practice the students put in.

While rodeo is not officially recognized as a high school sport, competing students like to think it is as much a part of American athletic competition as the usual roundball and pigskin sports. "This sport really fits the Bicentennial theme and we're really going to promote it in '76," forewarns Sulphur's other ag teacher, Mr. Bill Welborn. "It's the only individual sport that developed in this county. That's the way we'd like our kids to grow up, as responsible individuals. They learn to think, act, and organize on their own. They also learn to win a little and lose a whole lot in trying. You've got to learn to do those things if you want to be a success."

The young cowboys need to be tough. Those in Louisiana live up to the hard-nosed "Cajun" image which natives ascribe to. Dressed in broad-brimmed hats, big buckled belts and worn bluejeans, they answer to slang labels such as kickers or goat ropers, but most often just cowboys. And like many who rodeo they come with a built-in limp—usually out of habit.

Fortunately, being rugged and being trouble makers don't seem to equate in the rodeo equation. Karen McAnulty, representative for the Sheraton Hotel that quarters the finalists in Sulphur each year says they are one of the better behaved groups they host. Further evidence of the respectful attitude of the young cowpersons is the crime rate measured in Tomah, Wisconsin, during last year's nationals. According to the county sheriff it actually declined.

Sulphur High School principal, Mr. Bill Moses, insists the high school program has kept some potential dropouts in school. Since one of the prerequisites for competition is the meeting of grade and conduct qualifications of each state's Athletic Association Standards, the students work hard to "keep their grades up."

The rodeo obsession by the Sulphur citizens is now aided by the second generation of cowboy families. Fathers who competed in rodeo as high schoolers now run the chutes, hold stop watches, act as rodeo clowns, or just observe with nervous anticipation as their sons or daughters cling to the back of some high flying bronc.

"All three arena supervisors at our state finals are former FFA members," notes advisor Benckenstein. "Several will be involved in the finals next year."

According to Benckenstein, over 80 FFA chapters are represented in their state high school rodeo association. Six-

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FFA advisor and president of NHSRA Ellis Benckenstein, on left, will play major role in organizing the 1976 National High School Championship Rodeo in Sulphur. Chuck Kinney, coming off horse, is an FFA member from Sulphur and is currently serving as national student officer for National High School Rodeo Association.

PHOTO ROUNDUP

RODEO

Photo by Gary Wilson

High school rodeo is gaining popularity across the country. And as characterized by the above photo and others on this page, FFA'ers often play a lead role in this exciting sport.

Connie Fletcher, an FFA member from Dayton, Washington, is the 19 National Pole Bending Champion and finished second in barrel racir

Blane Warwick from the Palatka, Florida, FFA Chapter in action at t 1974 national finals. Blane will represent Florida again this ye

A firm grip on both his mount and his drink, a young cowboy awaits his day.

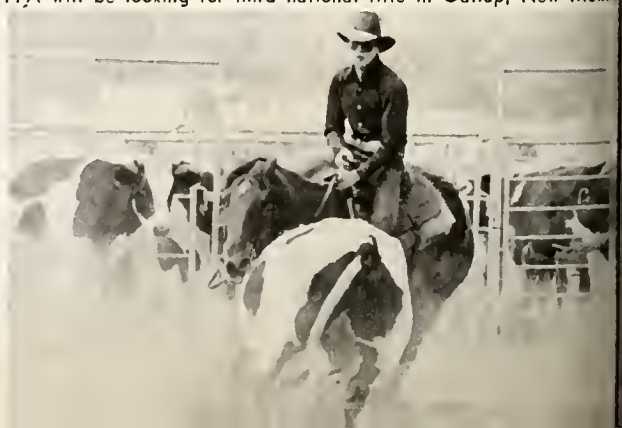
High school rodeo action in Golden, Colorado. A good clown is mighty handy to have around.

Another Palatka FFA member, Edie Masters puts a fast wrap on l goat and wins trophy saddle for the state in 1974 rodeo competiti

Speed, skill, and determination are the key. Lompoc FFA rodeo, California.

Chapter President Joe Runyan, Cache, Oklahoma, shows form during bull riding event.

Two time national cutting champion Butch Lott, Jr., Oxford, Flori FFA will be looking for third national title in Gallup, New Mexi



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The eyesore once located behind Ohatchee High School is now a two-acre lake. FFA Advisor Jim Morris discusses next step in BOAC project with members.

BOAC Project Offers Beauty and Recreation

"IT was an eyesore down there," says vo-ag teacher Jim Morris, "mostly just a quagmire, a slough, with a few old pigpens, rubbish and brush."

To look out from behind Ohatchee High School now, it's a little hard to believe it could have been so bad. Almost two acres of calm, clear water ripples in the Alabama breeze. It's a postcard setting with tall trees along banks green with Sudan grass. An occasional bass or bream surfaces for a low-flying insect.

The idea for converting the eyesore into a lake for study and recreation originated with the local Ohatchee FFA Chapter. Guided by the county Soil Conservation Service land use plan the students began the project two years ago. In June they won the governor's citation in the Building Our American Communities program.

"Almost all of the members took part," says Bradley Rogers, a chapter officer, referring to the 109 FFA members. "We had to clean the entire area so the bulldozer could shape the lake. We spent Saturdays cutting pulpwood which was sold and used to cover most of the expense."

The chapter worked closely with SCS officials as well as the local Farmers Home Administration officer and members of the local school board and county commissioners.

Many practical skills were taught by Morris as the project progressed. The entire area was surveyed by the members before the shaping began. Fish were planted, the banks seeded, and fruit trees and shrubs planted along the bank. Picnic tables have been placed along the water's edge for picnickers.

On the final day of school 50 of the boys brought their fishing gear to school and reaped the rewards of their hard work. Five hundred good-sized fish were landed by the anglers. The lake is the first and only recreational area available at Ohatchee.

Long range plans for the lake include extensive landscaping and picnic areas for use by the surrounding community. All the work will be done by FFA members as part of the continuing BOAC project.

"Building this lake was a pretty good idea. Now if only the fish would bite."

"This sure does beat fighting off the mosquitoes from that old slough."

"Well it may not be the biggest fish in the lake but just give me time."

Common diseases like influenza, tetanus or Eastern and Western sleeping sickness are a big threat to every horse today. Yet they can be prevented.

Good Horse Care Starts with a Check-Up

By William E. Ryan, D.V.M.

BACK in horse-and-buggy days, horse care was relatively simple. But increasingly, over the last few years, horse health problems have become far more complex.

Today, there are more horses on the move, ranging over a wider area than ever before, with more chances of exposure to disease organisms. New diseases, as well as new strains of old pathogens, have cropped up. More animals are concentrated in smaller pastures and lots, or in larger stables, resulting in more parasite and disease problems.

More of today's urban owners are less experienced in care of domestic animals. And let's face it, many weekend riders cannot give their horses the proper daily exercise and personal attention they need, especially in winter. So more horses suffer from unintentional neglect.

Veterinary science keeps pace

Fortunately, veterinary medical science has done a good job of keeping pace with horse health problems. Today, many safe, effective vaccines are available to protect against most major disease. A professional tube formula wormer has been developed that is highly effective in removing all five of the major internal parasites safely and surely. Many advanced pharmaceuticals are successful in treating ailments and pathological conditions. A professional conditioner can boost both appearance and productive efficiency of breeding, growing and working animals. And sophisticated laboratory tests and procedures back up the veterinarians diagnoses and treatments.

As a horse-owner today, if there's any one health practice you should observe above all else—it's to get an annual professional check-up.

Worms are a tough problem

Horses are subject to more kinds of parasitic worms in greater numbers than any other domestic animal. Nearly every horse is sure to be infected with some worms. Obvious signs of infestation include depression, reluctance to move, poor weight gains, unthriftiness, rough coat, ventral edema, pot belly, anemia, recurrent colic, and occasionally death.

But in most cases, the signs are not so obvious—yet the worms may still be undermining your horse's health and condition through damage to the liver, lungs, and intestines.

Controlling worms is one of your toughest horse health problems. It requires thoroughness, and it requires a regular, consistent program. There's no quick, easy, do-it-and-forget-it way to get rid of worms. Most veterinarians rely on tubing, where the wormer is put directly into the stomach. This assures a full, accurate dose promptly, which is necessary to eliminate the worms effectively.

As an important part of the annual check-up, your veterinarian will set up a year-round worming program—generally based on tubing every three to six months for thorough clean-out. Then to help keep the infestation down between tubings, he may suggest periodic use of a feed-additive wormer, providing your horse will eat it readily (and many horses won't).

Vaccination is a must

Your vaccination program may vary considerably, depending on the showing, competing and traveling plans for your horse. Be sure to tell your veterinarian of your plans, so wherever you go, or whatever your activity, your horses will be protected.

Since horses are accident-prone and any contaminated wound can be the breeding ground for deadly *Clostridium tetani*, almost every horse alive should be vaccinated for tetanus (lockjaw).

If your horse is in contact with other horses—at shows, group events, trail rides, or even across the fence—your veterinarian is very apt to recommend vaccination for influenza and strangles

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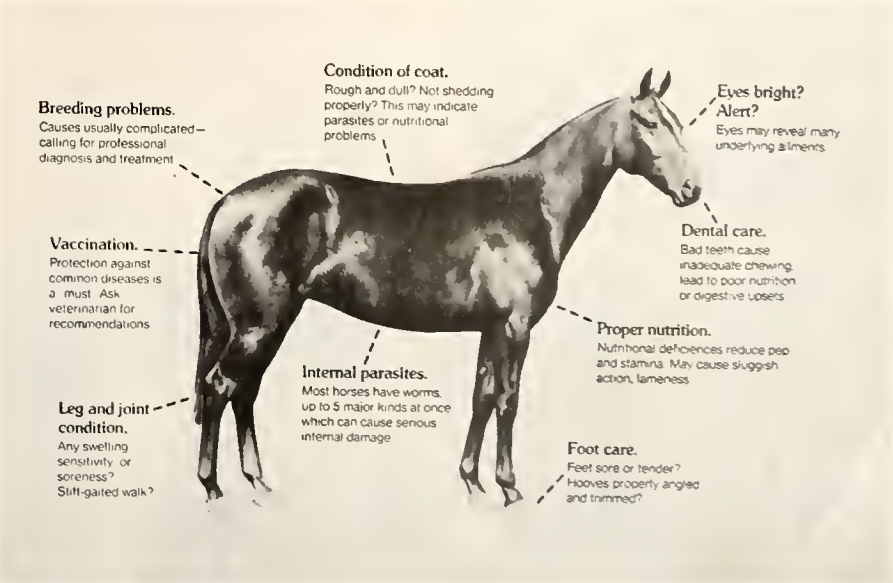

Condition of coat.
Rough and dull? Not shedding properly? This may indicate parasites or nutritional problems
Breeding problems.
Causes usually complicated—calling for professional diagnosis and treatment
Eyes bright? Alert?
Eyes may reveal many underlying ailments
Vaccination.
Protection against common diseases is a must. Ask veterinarian for recommendations
Dental care.
Bad teeth cause inadequate chewing, lead to poor nutrition or digestive upsets
Proper nutrition.
Nutritional deficiences reduce pep and stamina. May cause sluggish action, lameness
Internal parasites.
Most horses have worms, up to 5 major kinds at once which can cause serious internal damage
Leg and joint condition.
Any swelling, sensitivity or soreness? Stiff-gaited walk?
Foot care.
Feet sore or tender? Hooves properly angled and trimmed?

Your horse should undergo a thorough examination before each riding season begins. Keep an eye out for any of these health clues and consult with a veterinarian.

Going South With the Secretary

Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz went to South America and your editor was invited to go along.

By Wilson Carnes

Your editor and the Secretary in Caracas.

AS the Air Force 707 soared into the sky gaining altitude, I slumped back in my seat and reminded myself that this was a true story. I was on my way to South America and traveling with the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States.

An endless series of questions raced through my mind—about this trip, the Secretary and South America. In the next few days, from June 17-25, I would have part of the answers. Our trip would take us to Caracas, Venezuela, and three places in Brazil at Brasilia, Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo.

The meetings were to vary throughout the trip. At times we joined the Secretary in his sessions and at times we met with different individuals or groups. Others on the trip included several USDA officials and two additional members of the farm press. Joining your editor in the "press corps" were David Skoloda, farm editor of *The Milwaukee Journal,* who was named the outstanding newspaper farm editor in America last year; and Royce Bodiford with radio station KGNC, Amarillo, Texas, president-elect of the National Association of Farm Broadcasters, and a national FFA officer in 1957-58.

The Secretary was well received in both countries. The Butz humor comes through even when translated into Spanish as in Venezuela, or Portuguese as in Brazil. And so does his message. Sounding like the college professor he once was delivering a lecture on practical agricultural economics, Butz spoke before the chambers of commerce in three cities visited and the U.S. agricultural attaches from Latin America who were meeting in Caracas.

"Our food policy can be summed up as abundance—full production, freedom from government restraints, encouragement by the government of full production of farm goods," he said.

Secretary Butz challenged the ag attaches to help find markets for American farm products. "Unless exports hold up, domestic farm policy in the U.S. will fail," he told them. He explained that exports permit farmers to operate at top efficiency so in the long run will bring cheaper food prices for the American consumer. He reminded the attaches that we must export one-half of our soybeans, two-thirds of our wheat, one-fourth of our feed grains, one-fourth of our cotton, one-half of our tallow and edible fats . . . or we are in trouble.

Left, friends from the Food Conference in Rome, Butz and Brazil's Minister of Agriculture Paulinelli. Below, left, with Venezuelan president, symbolic of importance of agriculture in foreign affairs; from left U.S. Ambassador Shlaudeman, President Perez, Butz, and Minister of Agriculture Conteros. Below, with industry leaders chaired by Butz and U. S. Ambassador Crimmins.

On several occasions the Secretary identified the number one problem of the world as population growth. He emphasized the two things we must do in the next 25 years (by the year 2000) is double food production and bring the world population under control.

"The opportunity to use our tremendous God given agricultural resources fully, I think, is a factor in building peace in the world," he said. "Food is the tool of governments and dictators. People will listen to anyone if he has a piece of bread," he stated quoting the late Indian leader Ghandi who one day said, "Even God does not approach a hungry man except in the form of bread."

In his plea for a "profit" for farmers, the Secretary reminded his audiences that, "secretaries of agriculture do not produce food, ministers of agriculture do not produce food, world food conferences do not produce food—only farmers on the land produce food."

Venezuela

Venezuela is one of our oldest friends and our third largest trading partner in Latin America. We have had diplomatic relations for 140 years. The key to the Venezuelan economy is oil, which accounts for over 90 percent of foreign exchange earnings. The country is the world's third largest exporter of oil and did not curtail shipment to the United States during the Arab oil embargo.

The government of Venezuela is trying hard to improve the agricultural situation in the country and at present has a very liberal loan program for agricultural purposes. There are some tax credits for investments in agriculture.

In 1974, the United States exported $323 million worth of farm products to Venezuela, double the value of the preceeding year. Half of this business consisted of wheat and other grains and the remainder was a wide variety of other products including sizeable amounts of vegetable oils and proteins.

Brazil

"Our agricultures in the United States and Brazil have come by different routes to find we have much of a joint concern," the Secretary said. We share many parallel interests in the upcoming Multilateral Trade Negotiations in Geneva. These negotiations, the first of a general nature since the Kennedy Round in the mid-1960's, could well set the course of world trade for the remainder of this century.

Brazil is also making a major effort to improve their agriculture. Quite evident in Brazil were many college graduates of some of our best agricultural universities. One limiting factor mentioned frequently during our trip was fertilizer, which they reported cost about three times the cost the United States farmer pays. On the other hand, they have some advantages such as their soybeans which are double-cropped with wheat.

Sugar production, a major industry, is highly regulated by set prices and quotas from the farm through the sugar mills.

Summing up during a speech at Rio de Janeiro, Secretary Butz said. "In this century at least, the policies of governments rather than nature are likely to be the limiting factor in food production. It is essential that nations join together to share technology, encourage trade in products and in ideas, and to work against any revival of economic isolationism. We must abandon national programs built on a cheap food policy, and assure farmers a chance to make a reasonable profit. Then they will respond with increased production."

The Secretary held several press conferences such as this one in Brazil.

The Secretary Sums It Up

(Excerpts from a taped summary.)

WE have just completed a most successful trip for American agriculture and in a very real sense for American diplomacy, too; visiting Venezuela and Brazil.

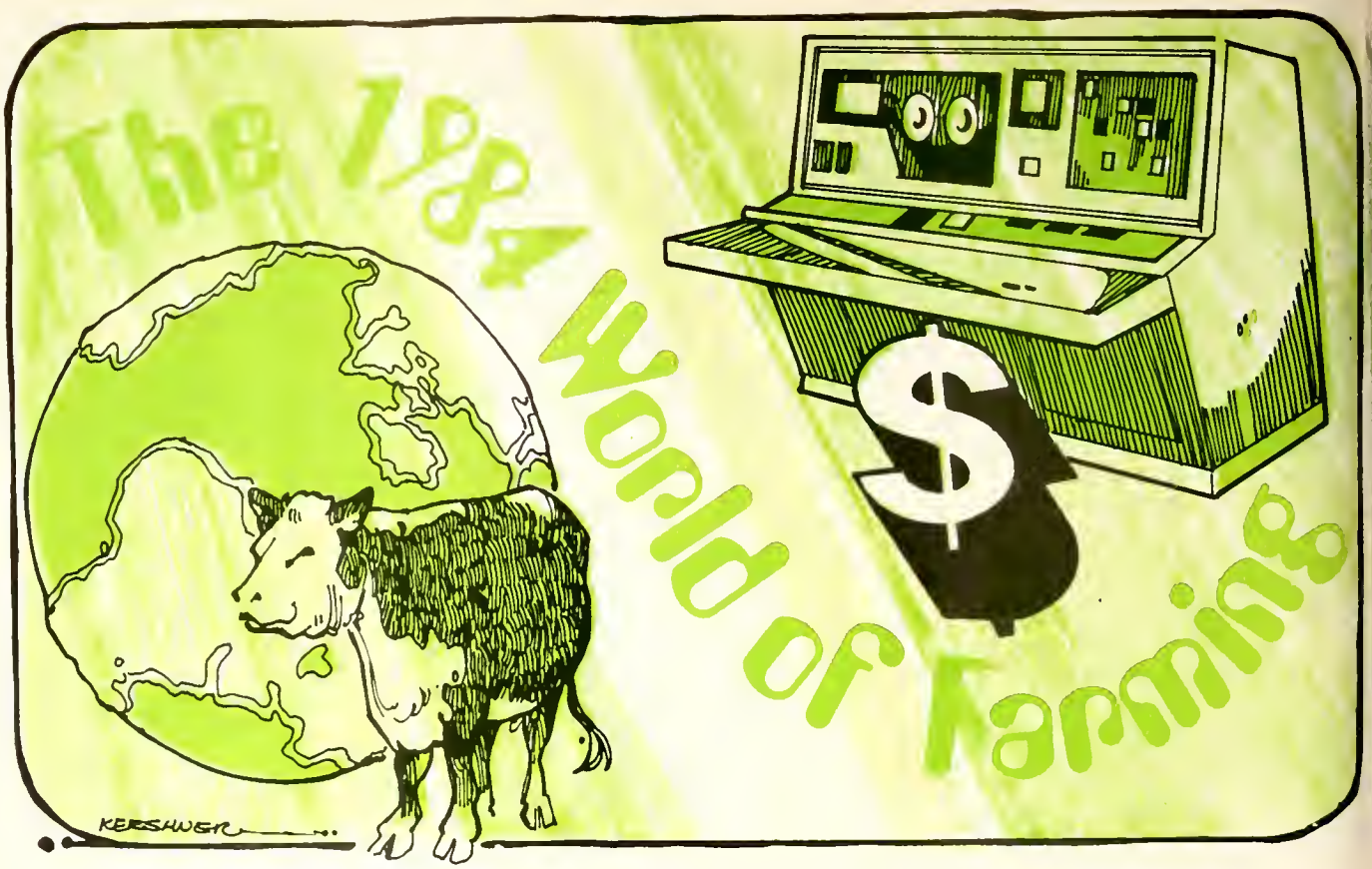
We have heard a lot in American agriculture about the growth of soybean production in Brazil. It is real competition, let's not make any bones about it. We discussed that. We discussed Brazil's sugar industry, their sugar policy. We discussed their relationship to us now that we don't have a sugar act. We discussed whether or not Brazil will continue to be a market for American wheat.

Brazil produced about 10 million tons of soybeans last year. They exported almost one-fourth as many soybeans as we exported and they are growing. They have a goal to produce more soybeans and I think they will produce more soybeans. We discussed with them the possibility of joining together in a market promotion effort, something like we have done with the International Institute of Cotton where the major cotton exporting nations got together to promote the consumption of cotton.

In a broader sense this trip accomplished a great deal for overall relationships between the United States and the two countries in South America we visited. One of the most powerful avenues of communication the United States has with fully two-thirds of the nations of the world is agriculture. This is an area people understand. We have a lot people want. We have a lot of technical expertise. We have a lot of know-how. We have a lot of science. We have a lot of trained scientists. And we can talk about agriculture and about food production on the basis of common understanding.

Our discussions in South America with ministers of foreign affairs, with ministers of agriculture, with ministers of planning, with governors, with executives of companies, for example, lead to a basis of broader understanding. As a matter of fact, our ambassadors in both countries at the conclusion of our visits indicated that these contacts had opened up whole new horizons of communication or understanding.

In the final analysis, the number one goal in the United States or Brazil or Venezuela or China or any place else, has to be the promotion of peace. One of the most powerful tools we have to promote that kind of understanding in America is our agriculture, our food production. As our agriculturists move around the world and as our agriculture attaches continue to make their ongoing contacts in these countries they are serving the cause of peace. There is no nobler outlet for human enterprise than this.



Here is a look at agriculture in the next decade as viewed by an executive with a leading agriculture consultant firm.

By Forest L. Goetsch

BY 1984 the current industrialization of agriculture will be mostly completed, and the bulk of our food and fiber production will be coming from well-run farm business firms. These farm businesses will be operating in a political and economic climate vastly different from that of the 1950's and 60's. We have already seen the transition to a market-oriented agriculture, as the U.S. government moved out of the vast food storage business in which it was involved under old agricultural farm programs. Undoubtedly, there will be some new policies on reserves, but we doubt they will involve massive government ownership and storage of nonperishables.

The 1984 farmer will have no more political influence than any other industrial group. He will be operating in a market which is subject to considerable fluctuation as world conditions change. His markets will not have the stability that once was true when he was producing under price supports.

Today the majority of the farmers still do not understand the hedging process in grain or livestock futures markets. Because of this instability in markets, by 1984 the bulk of them will have been forced to take steps to protect themselves from market gyrations, and hedging will be one of those steps. There will also be more forward contracting of crops on the cash market.

The farmer of the future will have to be more flexible and less traditional. He will be producing those items in which he has comparative economic advantage in the world market. Currently, those include feed grains, soybeans and wheat. The climate which we have, and our large acreage of fertile soil gives us natural advantages in producing these crops. With these, we have the highly sophisticated power farming systems which have been developed and a variety of effective crop chemicals.

Assuming that we do have relatively free world trade, there are some products in which U.S. farmers' disadvantage will be even more firmly established by 1984. Last year I visited Europe as a board member of a firm manufacturing bulk milk tanks for use on dairy farms. Dairymen there are about in the stage of mechanization where U.S. farms were some 15 years ago. It becomes apparent that before long they will be an even more competitive force, so far as manufactured dairy products are concerned, especially if the Common Market subsidizes its producers.

We are already seeing certain labor-intensive crops shifting from the U.S. In the case of tomatoes and strawberries, some production moved to Mexico. We now see pineapples being grown in other Pacific Islands besides Hawaii, where they have traditionally been produced. High labor and land costs are causing a move.

The farmer of 1984 certainly will be handling relatively large volumes of money in order to show the desired return on his labor and investment. Currently, we see that a commercial farmer may average 70 cents of cash outlay for every dollar of farm income.

Agricultural commodity prices have undoubtedly moved to a new higher plateau, reflecting the two devaluations of the U.S. dollar and the demand from nations which are upgrading their diet and changing their consumption patterns. At the same time, we have seen U.S. farm production costs go up at an alarming rate. The period of easy windfall profits has passed for livestock farmers and it will soon be over for

(Continued on Page 33)

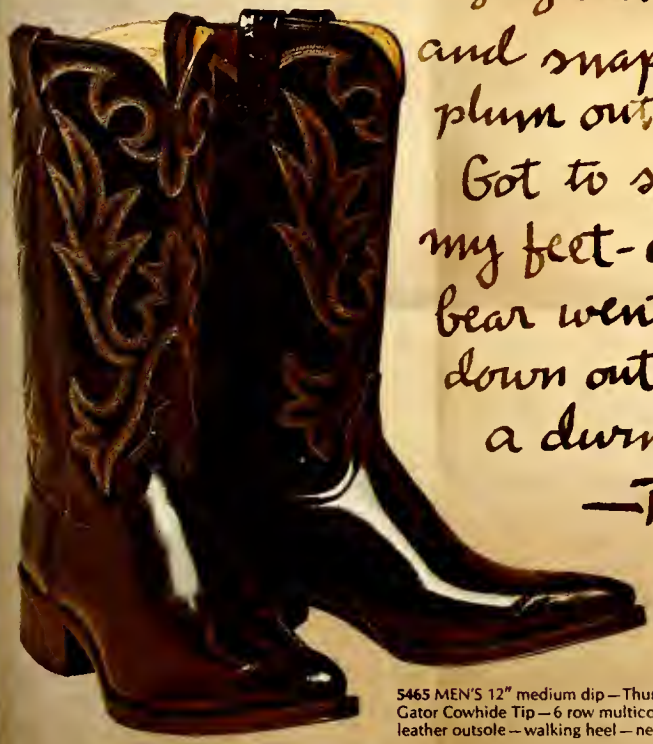
The author, Mr. Forest L. Goetsch, is president of Doane Agricultural Service, Inc., Saint Louis, Missouri.

Dear Sam, Just a short note to tele you what happened to me and Ol' McKinsey yestiddy – The ramrod sent us out to hunt for strays, and about a mile south of camp we came across this bear cub. Well, we reckoned that if we could ketch it, maybe we could sell it to some fool in the next town we hit or train it to rassle and git out of the cow business.

What we didn't reckon on was its mama charging out of that gully, growlin and snappin and spookin our horses plum out of the country. Got to stop now and soak my feet – after that ol' she-bear went off, and we clum down out of that tree, it was a durn long walk back to camp.

—Til next time.

Best Regards,
Charlie



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Look up. Be looked up to.

Air Force

The 1984 World of Farming

(Continued from Page 28)

crop producers. Then good, tight business procedures will again be necessary in farming operations.

The 1984 farmer will be thoroughly familiar with computerized accounting, cash flow projections from the computer and the various uses of linear programming in farm planning. These are techniques which we at Doane are already using with some of today's top operators. Because of the flexibility which will be necessary in farming operations and the need for capable management of cash, these newer techniques will be an absolute necessity.

What type of business organization will be most common to farming and ranching in the 1980's? Well, we have seen publicly-owned corporations take their fling at agricultural production. Most of them have backed away from it and taken their losses. The most recent ones to do so are some which have been involved in commercial cattle feeding operation.

I think that family farm corporations and partnerships will be the most dominant types of farm business organizations in the 1980's. With rising land prices and the high cash input needs, certainly there will be an absolute necessity to pool resources of different members of farming families in most instances. I feel that we will likely see an increase in the procedure of having one corporation own the farmland, with another operating corporation doing the actual farming. There may be several members of the same family involved, but with a slightly different combination in the operating company from that in the land holding company.

I also feel that there will be large amounts of high-quality farming land owned by outside investors and operated by other farmers under leasing arrangements.

After the 21 percent jump in U.S. land prices in 1974, we are seeing Illinois and Iowa farmland commonly selling at more than $1,600 per acre. We at Doane feel good that 640 acres is a desirable-sized unit for an operator and a second man, assuming both crop and livestock production. We feel that this will be a good-sized unit for several more years. With the land cost at its current level, you can see an investment of about a million dollars in land alone. Adding machinery and inventory, you can quickly add up another $100,000 of capital for non-real estate investment, without livestock.

Looking down the road ten years, it is not unrealistic to project that land prices might be doubled—a slower rate of increase than occurred in the past 20 years. This would put your 640-acre Midwest farm at an investment of $2 million by 1984.

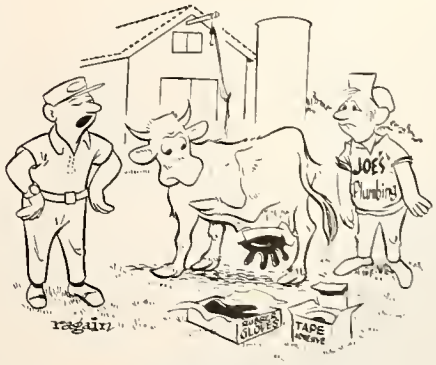
Looking backward, we know that expansion of farm businesses was traditionally financed by capital generated internally; often by sacrifice on the part of the farm family who eked it out of their living expenses. Looking forward to 1984, and the type of investment required for a viable farm business, it is quite obvious that there will have to be some outside capital introduced into agriculture, along with the equities which have been built up by families long in the farming business.

I can see frequent arrangements with farm operators owning a small tract where they have their headquarters, and service their machinery with cash and share leases on any available tracts of farmland within a radius of several miles in any direction. This situation already exists to quite an extent in the cash-grain areas of Illinois and Iowa.

Undoubtedly, there will be shifts in the regional production of livestock as the theory of comparative advantage comes into play within the U.S., just as I mentioned in the world situation. We expect that swine production will continue to be intensified in the Corn Belt, with some additional new units developed in the Great Plains area. Of course, by 1984, hogs will be produced primarily in confinement units. Land will be too expensive to be using much of its for pasture. Also, high costs of labor will force more mechanization.

The feeding of beef cattle has already made a big shift to the area from Nebraska to Texas. There are definite climatic advantages there, compared to the high humidity areas where muddy feedlots become a severe problem.

It takes millions of dollars to finance the nation's beef cattle feeding operations. In recent years, the sale of limited partnerships has brought in amounts of money, which have been estimated as high as one and a half billion dollars, from outside investors attracted to the cattle feeding situation. Many of them have lost all of their profits for the past five years and their original equity as well. With losses running up to $200 per head, the cattle feeding industry literally went through the wringer. These individual investors will probably not be back.



"That is not the leaky milking machine that I wanted repaired."

Agricultural finance corporations and new banking methods will come into the picture to replace the tax shelter cattle feeders as commercial lots are gradually refilled.

By 1984 we certainly can expect to see some changes in land use. With the sudden realization that there is a limit to the nation's capacity to produce food, it can be expected that legislation will be passed within the next few years which will safeguard most of America's prime agricultural land from other uses which have been gobbling it up at a rather fast rate.

The growing population is searching for recreational outlets and it appears that perhaps the scenic Western areas will lose much of their grazing use to recreation. We see great possibilities for upgrading the use of land in some other areas to something more than just growing cutover timber, brush and weeds. We at Doane feel that there are thousands of acres of land across southern Indiana, Illinois, Iowa and northern Missouri which could be bought at a relatively low price, developed and turned into units for producing beef cattle. The cost, generally, would be less than buying a going ranch in the traditional Western areas. With the big jump in land prices, it now becomes feasible to clear brush and timber, fill ditches, apply lime and phosphate to develop pastures, and to drain certain areas in the South which might not have been practical with lower land values.

Certainly you are aware of the constant increasing size of farms in the U.S. The 1974 estimate was 384 acres, average for the U.S., contrasted to 322 acres only 11 years earlier. Another change, in addition to total size, will be the larger fields that will be developed for use of the big farm machinery now available.

Within the next ten years you will see the traditional hedgerows pretty well ripped out in the Midwest, and fences removed from small pastures and fields so that units can be farmed more efficiently. More and more farmsteads are being abandoned, or if the farm house is in fairly good shape they are rented out to workers who prefer to live in the country. There are social implications as tradition is pushed aside by bulldozers. However, economic

(Continued on Page 35)

Story of The Cowboy Boot

No other piece of footwear has been interwoven with the history of an area as the cowboy boot in the Southwest.

By Raymond Schuessler

IF you were to flip a cowboy straight up into the air, he would come down heel first into the ground like an arrow in a halo of dust. With his boots a cowboy could almost walk down a sheer cliff bracing his horse behind him. He could do a hundred chores with his boots, including plowing a field during a drought or perforating an oil drum.

No other piece of footwear has been interwoven with the history of a geographical area as the cowboy boot has been in the story of America's great Southwest. The cowboy boot has been used for all purposes: work, dress, and play. The cowpokes wore these boots on horseback and afoot, from the cradle to the grave. Today, cowboy boots are just as much at home on the feet of bankers, barbers, cattlemen, oil well riggers, or almost anyone else as they are on the feet of the cowboy.

The cowboy boot with its high heel is not exactly made for locomoting on the ground, but then it wasn't meant to be. Off his horse a cowboy walked like a fish out of water. There were rumors that boots were really devised by a horse dealer to discourage a cowboy from ever walking.

Boots grew out of the necessity of riding comfort, safety, and work requirements on the range. They protected the ankle from chafing by rubbing against the side of the horse. High heels could mean life or death in breaking in horses and roping steers. The heels gave the rider a better grip in the stirrups. The pointed toes made it easier to find a stirrup in a hurry, and the tops were loose fitting so that the boot could be kicked off in a hurry should the horse bolt and throw the rider who might have one foot caught.

The cowboy boot is truly American and not to be found anywhere else in the world. The high, underslung heel was a badge of distinction for the cattlemen and cowboys who were proud of their work. As with the knights of old, the cowman's boots showed him to be a riding man, which made him better than a man on foot.

The cowboy had nothing but contempt for the Easterner's heavy soled shoes. He would rather go barefooted than wear a low-cut shoe. As one oldtimer put it, "You might as well omit your pants as your boots when in public."

Perhaps the least reason for his pride was the price. But boots were the most expensive part of his wearings. Fifty dollars for a pair of boots was not abnormal and silver inlay could cost a lot more. He was spending $30 to $40 for boots in the days when he was only making $60 a month.

One of the stories about the birth of the cowboy boot suggests that one day in 1875 a dust covered rider from Colorado stomped into a Kansas boot shop and demanded a pair of high-cut boots that would be easy on his feet and safe while riding. The shoemaker came up with a pointed toe, higher, sloped heel, and stitching up the leg to prevent collapsing.

The new boot was an immediate success and orders came into the small shop. Because of lack of competent bootmakers in the early West, master bootmakers were imported from Chicago, the East and even Europe. These bootmakers brought their pride of craftsmanship with them and together with local bootmakers developed the Western boot into the classic and irresistible gear it is today.

Bootmakers were a proud guild and took pride in the steady customers they corralled and the fancy new designs they dreamed up. The craft was as close-knit as the porcelain makers of Denmark, and the secrets were handed down from generation to generation.

"I never ordered a creep to feed— I said creep feeder!"

So distinct was their work that an expert cattleman could tell at a glance who made your boot and whether you were worth palavering with.

In the early days the cowboy wore a 17-inch boot with pull-on straps that came almost to the knees. They were long enough to prevent gravel from running down to his toes. The shorter, dressier boot came in later, mostly with the dude, since the working cowboy needed extra height. One thing the movie people didn't figure out when they made cowboy movies was that when a cowboy's boot was in the stirrup, a low boot would pull down in back making like a funnel for all the junk that the horse's hooves kicked up. Today, with the tight jeans covering the boot while working, the average height is 11 to 12 inches, although some parts of the country still prefer a 14-inch leg.

The high heel evolved out of sheer necessity. If the cowboy was going to fight bulls he was going to need a built-in stabilizer or brake. With the high underslung heel he could brace his feet in the stirrup, and on the ground he had firm footing when roping, braking, or just escaping.

When heels first came into vogue centuries ago they were considered a mark of nobility and not allowed on shoes of peasants or workmen. From this came the expression, "well heeled." When the cowboy devised his boots he made sure he had plenty of "nobility."

Most cowboys had a Sunday pair of boots for town visiting. He would glory in wearing his boots at a dance and hearing his heels pop. It is rumored that an important cattleman in Texas had a special pair of patent leather high heeled boots made to order to wear with his tuxedo.

Putting a boot together is not an easy job. It takes about 200 parts to build a cowboy boot and just under ten feet of leather for one pair of boots which does not include the bottom stock.

Over 1,300,000 cowboy boots are made annually and sales are increasing to such distant lands as Europe and Australia. Such boots really act on a man like narcotics: once you acquire the habit you find it impossible to stop wearing them. They give you the confidence of the whole daring and fearless heritage of the West.

1984 World of Farming

(Continued from Page 33)

realities will bring about more and more of this type of change.

We've seen a drastic reduction in the total farm labor force. Available crop acres have been fairly constant, and yet total output has risen drastically. The secret has been purchased inputs in the form of fertilizer, herbicides, crop insecticides, sophisticated machinery, improved seed varieties, petroleum products, animal health products, fortified feeds and a variety of other items.

The agribusiness industry has made sizable investments in product development which has made possible a significant increase in output per farm worker. We see an immediate impact when one of these products is lost to farm use, for cattle feeding or various pesticides used by crop farmers. Tighter government requirements have caused the costs of developing a new chemical to sky-rocket.

At the same time, regulations to protect the environment are causing some real financial problems for livestock feeders and dairymen. The food factory is now facing some of the same environmental obstacles that urban factories have been forced to deal with. We have hope that the very real need for food will bring some moderation in the demands of the environmentalists.

Hopefully, by 1984, we will also have our priorities ordered in a way that sufficient petrochemicals will be available to provide the necessary pesticides and the nitrogen fertilizer to meet our food needs.

The American farmer loves to produce. Give him the price incentive, and the raw material to work with, and he will do an amazing job.

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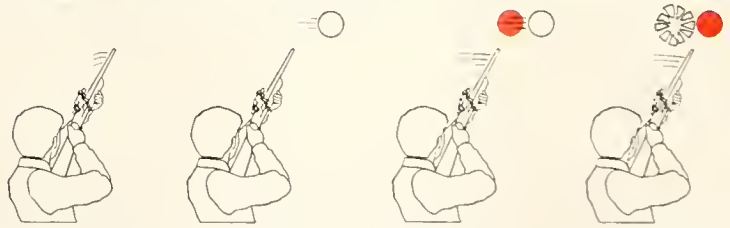

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Good Horse Care

(Continued from Page 25)

(Streptococcus equi). These contagious, debilitating infections can strike almost any horse at any season, and shoot you right out of the saddle. Considering the risk and the ease of prevention, it doesn't make sense to take chances.

Influenza vaccine should protect against both the A_1 and A_2 virus strains. Both are widespread today. For strangles, there's a new, more effective, more concentrated bacterin available this year. It's the only specific vaccine against *Strep. equi* infections and your veterinarian is familiar with it.

While Venezuelan encephalomyelitis (VEE) has been well publicized in recent years, two more forms of this disease are often overlooked. Yet they strike more horses every year than the VEE panic of a few years ago. They are Eastern and Western encephalomyelitis (EEE and WEE), or sleeping sickness. Carried by birds, and spread by mosquitoes, these two killers are no longer confined to any particular area of the country.

Advanced new vaccines for EEE and WEE are available including one combined with tetanus. They are highly effective and can save a lot of heartache by preventing what could otherwise be a disaster.

At least nine out of ten horses are infested with internal parasites, and up to five major kinds at once. A sound worming program will keep damage to a minimum.

Many state requirements

One more disease should be mentioned—equine infectious anemia (swamp fever). Little is known about this disease and currently there is no preventive or cure. But 24 states as well as Puerto Rico and Canada require a negative Coggins test for EIA before crossing their borders—which your veterinarian can provide.

Thorough examination

Demands on a horse's health are probably greater than for any other species because the horse is a performance animal. He not only has to look, grow and develop well, he has to perform well. Whether you're showing, competing, parading, working or just riding for fun, he has to be in tip-top condition. And that means tip-top health—lasting all year long.

By catching "hidden" symptoms before they develop into full-time health problems, you'll save money and heartaches—to say nothing of the pride you'll feel from the eagerness, spirit and vitality of your horse. With an annual check-up you're half-way home.

Cajun Cowboys

(Continued from Page 19)

teen qualifying rodeos are held in various parts of the state which serve as elimination contests for the competitors. A contestant must then place in the final state event, held in Sulphur, to earn the chance to try his or her luck in national competition, this year held in Gallup, New Mexico.

FFA Advisor Benckenstein, who is next year's president of the National Association believes FFA and NHSRA go hand in hand. "A lot of our new rodeo programs are finding their homes in FFA chapters,' he says. "It's what I think youth in America are looking for today, it's basic, it's sound, it's meaningful and they only get out of it what they put into it."

"I rather think the FFA leadership work we do has really flowed over into this national organization (NHSRA). You can go through our rule book and see a lot of the items that have come from the students. Much of it goes back to the training they receive through the FFA leadership and how to get something done."

Growth since the birth of the NHSRA has been impressive. Gene Litton, national secretary for the organization says two or three more states will probably receive state charters in the near future. "We're looking at Ohio, Alabama, and Mississippi as probable joiners in the next couple of years. When I became secretary four or five years ago our membership ran about 4,000. Now it's over three times that large." So impressed with rodeo was one nearby Louisiana school, Hackberry High School, they plowed up the school's football field and converted it to a rodeo arena.

A typical high school rodeo will include the traditional bareback and saddle-bronc riding along with bull riding, steer wrestling, calf roping and dally team roping, and a cutting horse contest for the boys. Girls' events while less dangerous are just as demanding. They include barrel racing, pole bending, goat tying and break away roping.

While ringside spectators "ooh" and "aah" as riders land head first in the arena dust or are trampled underfoot by some longhorn steer who doesn't fancy being thrown to the ground, officials are quick to point out the injury and casualty rate is really much lower than other more accepted sports like baseball, football, and swimming. "To my knowledge there have been only two fatalities recorded in the history of high school rodeo," says a member of Louisiana state board of directors.

Despite such claims, injuries do occur. The All-Around Cowboy trophy for the Louisiana finals is a memorial from the parents of a boy who suffered fatal injuries while riding a bull. Chuck Kinney, a Sulphur FFA'er and current national officer in the NHSRA also reluctantly attests to the physical punishment. His firsthand experience was gained while winning three consecutive trips to the national championships. "I broke a leg two years ago," he admits. "And teeth, yeh, I've broken eight front teeth and couple of fingers, too. But rodeo is in my family," he says, his eyes brightening as if a cloud has drifted from his face. And as the grin spreads under the broad brimmed hat, he seems to sum up the feelings of a few thousand other high school rodeo contestants. "It's in my blood—and I love it."

FFA'er Is Skilled Archer

Dave McCullough takes aim at the practice target on his farm in Pennsylvania. This summer he is taking aim at another target, a national title in archery.

WHEN David McCullough of Sharpsville, Pennsylvania, isn't with his cattle or working in the corn field you'll find him busy with another of his favorite pastimes—archery.

Dave isn't just a weekend archer. His skills have taken him to national competition three times. At age 14 he won second place nationally in the junior division. And in more recent years he has captured fourth and fifth placings in the intermediate tournament division among the nation's best.

There are two types of archery competition according to Dave. He explains, "Field archery consists of shooting at targets set up in the woods. There are 28 targets set at varying distances and angles and a contestant shoots four arrows at each."

The second form of competition, target archery, is the more accepted of the two. "Targets are set at 90, 70, and 50 meters," says Dave. "An archer shoots six arrows at a time using 144 arrows in all. This format is used in all the big international meets."

Dave uses a 42-pound bow and says the bows in national competition average about 40 pounds. Aluminum arrows are used in competition. "A complete outfit will probably cost $200 or less," notes Dave, a price that could be considered very reasonable in comparison to some other individual sports.

Dave hunts turkey and deer during bow season in Pennsylvania. And he and his father plan to travel to Wyoming in October to hunt antelope and mule deer. His father Mr. Irwin McCullough, assisted by his son, is a coach for the junior olympic archers in Mercer County.

Next year the young archer, who hopes one day to make the U.S. Olympic archery team, is going to expand his farming operation. Plus his livestock he's now planning on producing 50 acres of corn, 10 acres of wheat, 15 acres of oats, and 25 acres of hay for his cattle.

Dave says that should leave just enough time to squeeze in a few good archery tournaments.

Winnings include trophies from three national events. Highest placing was fourth in the intermediate division.

David pauses to show off his 17 registered Hereford cows, the foundation for his large and growing farming program.

More Than a Hobby

By Gary Bye

THIS year a new FFA proficiency award is being recognized by the National FFA Organization. Called the FFA Horse Proficiency Award and sponsored by the Morgan Horse Foundation, it is the nineteenth area of recognition for individual accomplishment at the national level.

Now that horse owners have received the go-ahead, FFA members are putting to pasture for good the notion that horses are only for hobbying. Many are preparing for careers in the horse industry—an industry whose growth is demonstrated by the record number of horses (over 8 million) now in the United States. *The National FUTURE FARMER* visited two such members whose horse projects are maintained for income as well as enjoyment.

Photos by Author

THIS summer at a California race track, a horse will be led to the starting gate for the first time. As the crowd waits with nervous anticipation for the starter's bell, Charlene Anderson will watch with special interest. The Thoroughbred race horse on the track will be her own.

Charlene, age 18, is this year's winner of California's horse proficiency award. Her involvement with horses began in combination with her other livestock projects, sheep and swine, which earned her an earlier proficiency award in livestock at last year's convention. At that same convention she was elected as state FFA secretary, only the second time that state has selected a girl for such an office.

Raised in the city of Los Angeles, Charlene and her family, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Anderson and her younger brother Charlie, moved out of urban America to a 60-acre ranch located near Hemet when she was a freshman in high school. At Hemet High she discovered almost by accident, the Future Farmers of America program. Under the guidance of Mr. Tony Latronica, the local agriculture teacher, Charlene learned quickly about agricultural life.

Her horse project began in earnest with the purchase of a $200 Appaloosa gelding. She trained the horse for show and competed extensively, one year winning over 60 ribbons. Finding that while such competition was fun, it was seldom profitable, she sold the gelding. And following the lead of the family operation, she jumped feet first into the Thoroughbred horse business.

The entire ranch had moved out of the purebred beef business and into raising and boarding quality Thoroughbred horses. Now on a typical day (something's either coming or going) there are about 175 horses on the ranch. Charlene owns seven of those, four brood mares, her race horse, now in training, and two new foals. The value of her pedigreed stock is worth several thousand dollars.

Living on the ranch has given the transplanted city girl the envious opportunity of working with the ranch veterinarian who spends full time on the ranch. "During the school year, I'd work one to two hours per day and summer months even longer hours," says Charlene. Such things as checking mares for breeding soundness, recognizing disease symptoms and delivering a new foal became routine chores.

On top of that Charlene became well versed in Thoroughbred pedigrees by studying magazines and keeping records on their own race horse. Give her the chance and she'll rattle off names and figures as if she'd been in the business a lifetime.

"Our top stallion is Top Conference. We've been offered a price in the six figure range for him but we're not going to sell," she says in a business-like tone. "My most recent foals, a colt and a filly are offspring of Donut King, one of the top five stallions in California," she adds.

Then as if to lay down the last card in a winning hand she concludes with a description of Red Seas II, an Anderson horse which won nine races last year to become the top horse in Northern California.

With horses like that to take care of, Charlene says she's learned a lot about feeding practices. "We arrived at a proper ration for our horses by getting together with a local milling company. We wanted a feed that was inexpensive while high enough in protein, roughages and other key ingredients."

This summer the girl from the city will finish her year as state FFA officer. Then she will begin attending college classes (except for race days) for a try at getting into veterinary school at the University of California. She'll also be trying for the American Farmer degree. With nearly a straight A grade average and plenty of practical horse sense, both should be worth a try.

LIFE is full of hurdles for Jen Longstreth of Modesto, California. Particularly on the days when she's competing for points in English horse jumping competition.

Jen, age 15, is just starting her FFA horse project. As a Greenhand she is a few years away from competing for state or national awards. But through her activities she is steadily building a solid foundation for later years. Living on a small ranch near Modesto, California, with her parents Mr. and Mrs. Robert Longstreth, she combines active competition in horsemanship with a money making enterprise in which she offers riding instruction tc beginning riders and trains horses for their owners.

The young rider has also arranged with her mother, who manages a boarding stable, to assist with the operation. Any horse sold which she has trained, Jen receives a percentage of the income. So far this year she has trained four horses.

Riding lessons are given mostly to young beginning riders, says Jen, although some of her students are high school age. A charge of $3.50 per lesson is her standard instruction fee. "One of my students didn't even know how to get on a horse when she came to me and now she is going to the horse shows with me," notes Jen with pride. "I worked with her three or four months, then she went to the horse mastership contest with me and competed in the peewee division. She could have won it," the young instructor says almost with amazement, "if a few things hadn't gone wrong. Anyway, it was fun seeing one of my students do well."

Although her FFA involvement is just beginning Jen has been riding for several years, first in western class competition and now in English jumping events. She trains her own horses and won a Reserve Champion placing in state competition last year through the California State Horsemanship Association.

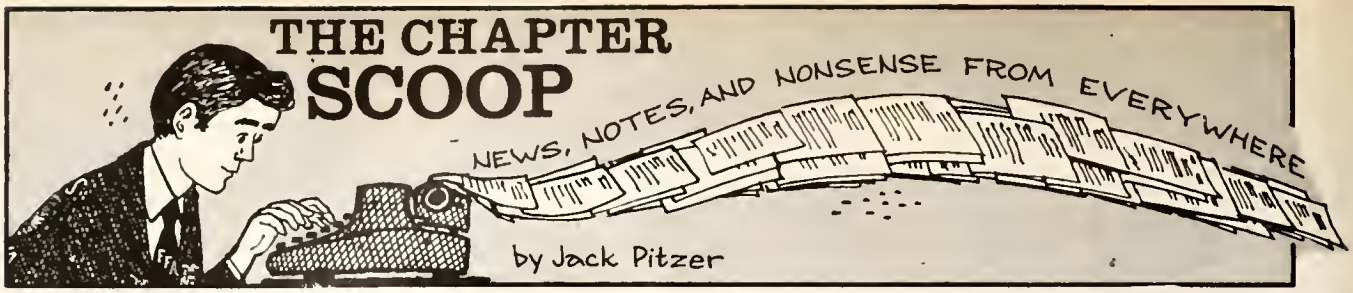
Training a horse for English jumping competition is a long process requiring plenty of patience. Jen explains, "First a horse is broken to the saddle, by adding weight gradually. When the animal will accept the saddle he is worked on the rail until he is ready to begin on ground poles. The horse must master the act of trotting over poles laid parallel on the ground at uniform intervals. Finally, the training progresses to jumping low crossbars and finally straight bars."

According to Jen most competition jumps are around five feet high. An outstanding jumper will clear six feet and a record jump is over seven feet high. Since a contest is scored on the horse's performance, proper training and frequent practice is the key to success. During competition a horse must be able to clear a succession of difficult jumps within the allowable time without knocking down any of the barriers.

Working with horses has always been part of Jen's life. She got her first horse when she was three and started showing at age seven. As the ranch on which they live expanded the family began to acquire more horses. Now they have about 20 on hand, including boarders. Boarding fees of $50 a month are charged along with a pasture fee of $30. The business, located in an area where horses are popular, has no shortage of customers.

The well-kept little ranch demands plenty of attention from Jen, who says her first ag classes from Advisors Don Heintz and James Leonard help her understand farm management a little better. Next year she plans to enroll in the agriculture mechanics class—that should be especially helpful for weekend chores. Such work may mean fixing a fence or constructing a jumping barrier.

Although she prefers to ride, proper management of the stable requires cleaning stall areas, feeding, grooming and occasional doctoring of the horses. But the work involved doesn't bother the dark-haired young horsewoman—it's just another small hurdle.



FFA'ers **Glen Albers, Lynn Zulkoski, Dave Dearmont** and **Lex Bratka** went to international range and pasture judging contest for *Burwell*, Nebraska.

N-N-N

Reporter **Dan Isenberg** wrote that *Pymatuning Valley*, Ohio, sponsored a spring horse show.

N-N-N

There were 510 competitors in state dairy cattle judging meet. And **John Van Gheem** of *Freedom*, Wisconsin, took top slot.

N-N-N

Things look good for *Salina*, Kansas. All but one of winning sweepstakes team members will be back next year.

N-N-N

Fyffe, Alabama, grew syrup cane and used the money to send their president to the National Convention.

N-N-N

Mount Ayr, Iowa, purchased a license to sell nursery stock in their state.

N-N-N

Committee to run *Centerville*, South Dakota, booth at local pork show—**Scott Wood, David Kvigna, Brian Weeks, Kent Austin.** FFA will give prizes at their booth.

N-N-N

Secretary of *North Bend*, Nebraska, Chapter, **Eva Vosler** is also state Pinto Horse Association queen.

N-N-N

Becky Colt, *Laguna*, California, got so excited about becoming a new Greenhand she stuck both hands into green paint during initiation.

N-N-N

Top salesmen in *Fort Atkinson*, Wisconsin, fruit sale were treated to all the pizza they could eat.

N-N-N

It took a lot of hard work for *Oregon*, Wisconsin, Chapter to make sand barrels for placement in the village for use on icy streets.

N-N-N

Highlight of a recent tour by *Carroll*, Ohio, FFA'ers to research and development center was the fistulated steer. (Steer had a hole in his stomach accessible from outside the body.)

A slide show of the year's events and accomplishments was prepared by **Daniel Perry** for *Turlock*, California, big banquet. Had 291 for barbequed steak.

N-N-N

St. Louis, Michigan, members say it was exciting to conduct "Food for America" for fourth and fifth graders.

N-N-N

Lions Club gave *Triway*, Ohio, FFA 24 pairs of "fog-ban" goggles for shop.

N-N-N

Lebanon Regional members in Connecticut made bets that chapter talker **Patty Simon** couldn't keep from talking for a whole day.

N-N-N

Principal Marvin Haley gave the welcoming address at the *Fayette*, Missouri, Greenhand initiation.

N-N-N

Forty-six people including several parents helped out on the *Sierra*, California, woodcut to raise funds. They got 30 cords.

N-N-N

Marysville, Ohio, donated a tractor to be used at state FFA camp. Young Farmers and Young Homemakers and local businesses helped too.

N-N-N

A frequent reporter to this page, **Sheila Reiboldt** of Apple Valley Chapter received regional California Star Reporter Award.

N-N-N

The 25 member *Wells*, Nevada, Chapter earned over $1,000 with a pork raffle held at their banquet.

N-N-N

Wonewoc, Wisconsin, Chapter hosted a spring banquet for their state officers.

N-N-N

Chapter at *Texico*, New Mexico, made a new flagpole for their school.

N-N-N

The officers' dinner has become a big event yearly for *East Newton*, Missouri.

N-N-N

Greg Ellis, *Bloom-Carroll*, Ohio, represents FFA on the junior board of Soil and Water Conservation District.

N-N-N

Grand Meadow, Minnesota, sponsored a rabies clinic.

A special edition of school paper was put out by journalism class at *Chamberlain*, South Dakota. All stories were by FFA officers, members and advisor.

N-N-N

The very first annual parent-member banquet was a big success for *Blackhawk*, Pennsylvania, Chapter.

N-N-N

In *Perry*, Michigan the awards banquet honors a different segment of FFA each year. This year—past state farmers; in 1974, past presidents; in 1973, past chapter sweethearts.

N-N-N

Gilbert, Arizona, did all right in state contests. They took state championship in five of 15 subject matter categories.

N-N-N

President of *Champlain Valley*, Vermont, Chapter, **Debra Perry** is Miss Vermont Agriculture for 1975.

N-N-N

Past national prexy **Mark Mayfield** spoke at *Seymour*, Missouri, banquet.

N-N-N

Some of the award presentations at *Burns*, Wyoming, banquet were made by Alumni Chairman Ivan Stoner.

N-N-N

Core of *Bowling Green*, Ohio, safety project is to have each member inspect five lawn mowers for hazards.

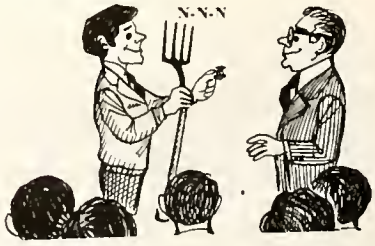
N-N-N

Minnesota Viking's Dave Osborne was speaker for *Silver Lake* banquet.

N-N-N

New ag/hort books in library of Minnesota State Prison courtesy of *Stillwater* FFA.

N-N-N



FFA in *Morton*, Illinois, gave retiring principal a distinguished service pin plus a pitchfork.

N-N-N

Each year *Belle Plaine*, Iowa, has a Ham Supper—Safety Day. Food is served to people who come to see safety exhibits. FFA also promotes meat.

N-N-N

College Springs, Iowa, FFA rented its popcorn popper to junior class for a cut.

N-N-N

Don't be too brief. Tell us about your chapter's summer activities and fun times. Plus what you are doing to celebrate the Bicentennial.

The Lee Rider: Bobby Berger.

"I guess bronc ridin's my favorite. Some of these old broncs been around for years. And you admire 'em. They just never quit.

"You learn their patterns. So while I'm limberin' up and gettin' ready, I'm thinkin' about that one horse and programming myself to ride according to his pattern."

"Darann and I like horses. Our friends think we got us a ranch in Oklahoma. I tell 'em we got this 80 by 120 foot spread in Norman, and the only livestock we own is a poodle dog."

LEE RIDER JEANS, JACKETS & SHIRTS
H. D. Lee Company, Inc., P.O. Box 440, Shawnee Mission, Kansas 66201

Indiana State President Mark Lute (above) draws attention to the sign leading to camp. New facilities offer opportunities for camping and leadership training to 10,000 FFA members.

An FFA Dream Come True

WHEN an Indiana FFA member talks about "the camp" chances are just about everyone within earshot, at least if he's an FFA member, knows what he's talking about. The "camp", officially called the Indiana State FFA Leadership Training Center sets on 168 acres of wooded rolling hills south of Indianapolis, and is available for use by the over 10,000 Hoosier FFA members.

Construction on the center began in 1968 and as it progresses this summer, it is taking shape as one of the most useful and without a doubt scenic youth camps in the Midwest.

The camp had long been the dream of many of the 10,000 Indiana Future Farmers. Summer leadership sessions had been held in two separate locations in the state and since those camps were not owned by the FFA organization, scheduling problems often arose. A camp located in the center of the state owned by the members themselves seemed to be an ideal solution, so the project sprang to life.

But building a camp from scratch wasn't a particularly easy task. Like most worthwhile goals though, getting there can be half the fun. In this case access to the site really was one of the initial problems. The wooded 168 acres which were purchased by the State FFA Foundation didn't even have a road into the site when construction began. And during the first years of the camp's existence the campers who attended would have to pitch tents or sleep in pickup campers then drive to a nearby town every other day for a shower.

It was a matter of roughing it or missing out on the fun. Some of the veteran campers insist they are going to miss those hard times.

Today the camp has a new look. Within a short time of ground breaking in 1968 the camp had a road and a new six-sided educational building which cost $60,000. A huge lodge and dining hall is now being completed. And restroom and shower facilities have been constructed along with sewer and water lines which have been laid.

Cabins, a beach for swimming and another lake, twice the size of the first, are foreseen for the near future. Two of the cabins are already close to completion and 15 others will be added.

Official dedication of the center took place in 1973 when a loan for $195,000 was presented to the FFA for further development of the camp. The loan which was secured at a low five percent interest rate has a payback period of 40 years.

In addition to the loan, state officers and local chapter members conduct annual foundation drives to collect money for the camp. Last year $45,000 was raised toward the camp and the state awards program.

In fact, the camp is a reflection of both student and advisor participation. Chapters across the state have constructed picnic tables, benches, trash containers, recreation equipment and tools used at the center. Students also cleared much of the campsite and still volunteer time during each of the summer leadership conferences.

The advisors have done such things as clearing brush, building a temporary cook shack, constructing a suspension bridge across one leg of the lake leading to the camping area and acting as group advisors during camp sessions.

The leadership camps held for the last three years have trained numerous members (1,000 last year) in public speaking, parliamentary procedure, recreation and leadership opportunities. The training is bundled into two and one-half day sessions. Last year seven such camps were held, four for older members and three strictly for incoming freshmen and sophomores to orient them with the FFA and familiarize them with the activities in which they will take part in their FFA career.

The camp is not restricted to FFA events and according to camp director Chuck Thompson, eventually the camp will see year-round use. Camp fees charged to businesses or groups which use the facilities will be used to defray expenses incurred by FFA members. Thompson says that will keep FFA expenses to a minimum.

Leaders are not born, they are developed, almost completely by their own efforts. Participation and cooperation are the key tools FFA members use while attending leadership camp. To become a leader FFA members need desire, the urge to excel, and most importantly, be willing to work hard.

These qualities are making a dream come true for Indiana FFA. (*Tony Weiss, Tom Daugherty, State Vice Presidents*)

Go Western

And not just West of the Mississippi. Western styles are influencing all kinds of apparel.

Resistol introduces "Touch of Mink" hat for 1975. Blended of beaver and mink and styled with "CattleKing" hand crease. Byer-Rolnick, 601 Marion Drive, Garland, Texas 75040.

Horsing around with unusual styling, Bailey Hat Company has come up with new "Spotted Horse" felt hat. Bailey Hat Company, 3707 Admiral Street, El Paso, Texas 79925.

Cavalry Twill Jean Suit from the ew "Western Wrelaters" collec- on by Wrangler Western Wear. Wrangler Western Wear. 4009 Apperel Mart, 2300 Stemmons reeway, Dallas, Texas 75207.

Pioneer Wear's Style 422 for men offers plush zip-front down and quilted polyester jacket. Horizontally quilted all over. In sea blue or cork. Pioneer Wear, Box 4066, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106.

Complimentary styles for men and women are all part of Larry Mahan's exciting "Cowboy Collection." Men's shirt has long sleeves with two-tone bib yoke and solid chambray body with assorted yokes, Cowboy Collection, 1100 Montana, Suite 203, El Paso, Texas 79902.

Style comes alive in Panhandle Slim's contrasting stripe western shirt. Extra long tail assures easy fit. Westmoor Manufacturing Company, 212 S. 10th, Omaha, Nebraska 68102.

Burnt apple brush off leather in smoothie style men's 12-inch medium dip boot. Offers riding heel and toe. Wrangler Boots, Nashville, Tennessee 37202.

Tony Lama features "oak lance foot" 300 toe medallion in brown and kitty-tan top. Tony Lama Company, P.O. Drawer 9518, El Paso, Texas 79985.

Newest boot from Nocona features vamp of lizard topped with kiddie leather. Nocona Boot Company, Box 599, Nocona, Texas 76255.

Justin's leather-lined Wellingtons, in London Tan Kide with 10-in. tops with round toe, leather soles and rubber heels. Justin Boot, Box 548, Fort Worth, Texas 76101.

Southwest cutter features full covered stirrups with quick change buckles and padded seat over Quarter Horse bars. Bighorn, 2306 S. Hickory Street, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37407.

The Lee Company offers Lady Lee Riders, Western flared with sticked center crease and saddleback styling. The Lee Company, P.O. Box 440, Shawnee Mission, Kansas 66201.

Bold solid and floral stripes set off Handler-Fenton's long-sleeved shirt of 50% polyester and 50% cotton. Write Handler-Fenton Westerns, 224 W. Alameda Ave., Denver, Colorado 80223.

Styled like a dress pant to fit like a jean the H BAR C's new Kicker pants are 100% polyester with keystone beltloops and flare legs. In plaid or solid. H BAR C/California Ranchwear.

Levi's Saddleman Boot Jeans are teamed up with checked Western shirts. Shirts come in five colors. Levi Strauss & Company, Two Embarcadero Center, San Francisco, California 94106.

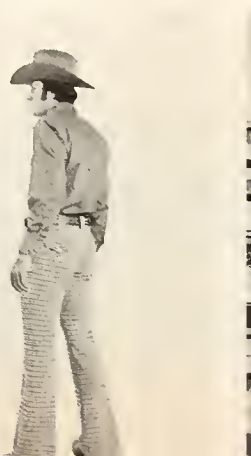
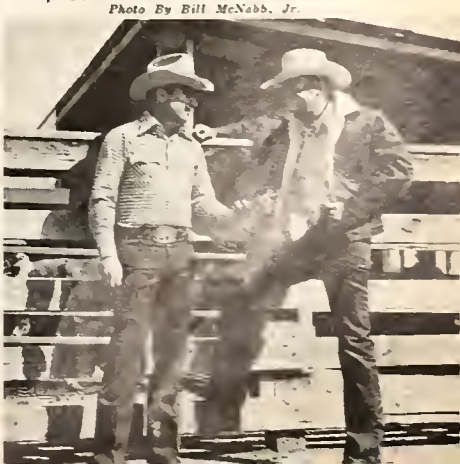


Photo By Bill McNabb, Jr.



Bicentennial Briefs

Reconstructing the Old West

IF YOU asked a hundred of Hollywood's biggest stars how to get into the movies they probably wouldn't suggest the approach taken by members of the Tooele, Utah, FFA Chapter.

The FFA formula sounds like some form of western torture treatment. It is pretty clear cut, just follow these simple directions. First, you get up each morning at 5:30 and drive 60 miles over rugged desert road to a place which has no water, no shade and only a few ornery rattlesnakes for company. Then you haul in 42 truckloads of good sized rock, another 46 of dirt, strip the bark off of 200 juniper trees and spend over 1,843 man hours of bone-aching, blister-making manual labor. Finally you cough up $250 out of your own pockets to cover the miscellaneous expenses. Now sit back and wait for people to take note.

And they will. At least they did for the Tooele FFA. What started as an idea for celebrating Uncle Sam's two-hundredth birthday has now developed into a full length film using FFA members as the cast of characters. And from the resultant project will also come a public park, in memory of the brief but exciting history of the Pony Express, and dedicated to the FFA members who reconstructed the old station.

"The idea of reconstructing the Simpson Springs Pony Express Station, located about 100 miles south of Salt Lake City, grew from the State Board of Education who wanted to develop a film to use in high school history classes," says chapter advisor Mr. Leland Beckstrom. "At the time the idea was being talked about, we were looking for a BOAC project for the year," adds the advisor, whose chapter won a national gold emblem in the program two years ago.

"We got together with members of the State Board of Education and some people from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) which owns the land, our local vocational director, and the Bureau of Land Management's archeologists. After looking it over we decided we could do it. Then the chapter got together and started planning. One of the things that I remember best is that the officials were pretty skeptical that a bunch of kids could do it. Yet the students just made up their minds they could and as long as the BLM didn't stop them they were going to try."

Try they did. BLM officials estimated the construction process would take at least a month. The FFA members sparked by the challenge went to work and within two weeks the old station had taken shape once more. The stone building, patterned after the original, measures 19 feet wide, 27 feet long with an eave height of 6½ feet. The station has double rock walls 20 inches thick. The roof is made of poles covered with cedar bark with 5 inches of dirt on top of the bark.

The project proved to be a trial of dedication and teamwork. Each morning at six the work crew would leave Tooele High School for the long ride over rough desert terrain. Different crews hauled in rock and dirt from the hills and water to be used in the mortar mix. Other individuals mixed the mortar and laid the huge stones in place. Chapter President Leo Castagno's father volunteered a mobile home which was set up on the desert and each night someone stayed on the desert keeping watch over construction and equipment.

While the FFA members did all of the actual construction, the total project involved a number of individuals and groups. "We couldn't even begin to add up all the man hours that went into planning and researching this project," notes Beckstrom.

"In the beginning we had to find out just where the station was built, so we contacted the Brigham Young University archeology department. One of their professors and a half dozen students came out and spent three days out there just digging and locating the old foundation.

"We also spent a lot of time contacting as many older people as we could to get their recollections of the old station. The person that gave us the most information was a 93-year-old man who still lived out there. He died a short time after the station was completed but his suggestions determined how the building was designed."

The Bureau of Land Management was also deeply involved. In addition to encouraging the reconstruction to take place, they also recorded much of the building on film and helped research the building plans which were followed by the FFA'ers. Permission was also required from the Bureau to collect all the stone, poles and bark used.

Once the building was near completion, the once skeptical BLM officials became so enthused they asked the members to postpone their finishing touches on the station so that they might build a protective fence around the relay station to prevent vandalism. A plaque was also placed on the site courtesy of the department with the names of all the FFA members who played major roles in the project. As a final step, the BLM plans to construct

(Continued on Page 47)

BOAC work crew begins laying rock for Simpson Springs Pony Express Station.

Standing once again in the Utah desert, the relay station is historical monument.

Shell horse wormer... the best wormer you can buy. Here's proof:

PRODUCT	% EFFICACY*						
	BOTS	ROUNDWORMS	LARGE BLOODWORMS (Vulgaris)	LARGE BLOODWORMS (Edentatus)	SMALL BLOODWORMS	PINWORMS Mature	PINWORMS Immature
Shell Horse Wormer	91-100	99-100	100	90-100	85-100	99-100	99-100
Alfalfa Pellet Horse Wormer	0	90-100	40-60	0-10	90-100	70-80	10-20
Bot-X	90-100	95-100	0-10	0-5	0-30	90-100	10-20
Foal Wormer	0	90-100	40-60	0-10	90-100	70-80	10-20
Pheno-Sweet	0	0	50-75	20-40	85-95	0	25-50
Wonder Wormer	0	90-100	40-60	0-10	90-100	70-80	10-20
Banminth	0	99	90	80	85	90+	75
Performance Wormer	0	10-30	90-100	90-100	90-100	90-100	30-40
Anthon	90-100	95-100	0-10	0-5	0-30	90-100	10-20

The Internal Groomer . . . kills both worms and bots with just one simple treatment.

SHELL horse products

SHELL CHEMICAL COMPANY
Animal Health, 2401 Crow Canyon Road, San Ramon, California 94583

Garden Program Bears Fruit

THERE will be no food shortage in Ellisville, Mississippi, this summer—at least in the homes of 74 FFA'ers. In fact, there might be a little extra on a table or two.

The South Jones FFA Chapter has initiated a special kind of program for their members. Each grows a garden in competition with one another for cash prizes and for fresh produce to fill their home freezers.

Initiated last summer by 67 members, the program has been so successful and gained so much attention it is now being held statewide.

Mr. John V. Poole, vocational agriculture instructor at South Jones High School, says the program really developed from student interest. Many of the boys did not have access to large acreages or pastureland for cattle projects. The rising price of food and the growing national popularity of the home garden added incentive to development of the project. "This contest gives every boy an almost equal chance in competition with other members," says Poole.

Rules for the contest came almost exclusively from member suggestions. "It was kind of like a crap game," notes a member, "in which we made the rules up as we went along. We'd talk this thing over at our chapter meetings and if somebody had an idea for improvement we'd put it in the contest rules."

The state rules adopted from the South Jones format require that a minimum of eight different kinds of vegetables must be grown in a minimum of 1,000 square feet of land area. An adequate record book is also necessary, including a diagram and financial summary.

Gardens are judged on appearance, arrangement, and utilization of the garden according to home and family needs. Yield, cultural practices, personal initiative, and the record book are also scored.

The real goal, according to Poole is to see how many quality vegetables can be grown in a defined area. The first year Dr. Clyde Singletary, head of the horticulture department at Mississippi State University, agreed to serve as official judge for the contest. He was so impressed with what he saw that he began promoting the idea to the state's department of education. He followed up by meeting with agriculture teachers at several locations to explain the program. State prize money for the first year of competition will total $500. South Jones also gives away over $2,000 in prize money to its chapter winners.

The growing season in Mississippi is such that one garden may produce double or triple crops of certain vegetables. One early problem faced by the South Jones Chapter was that of having too much produce for home and family use. Giving the leftover food away made many friends for the FFA. But now the chapter has undertaken a project to set up and man a farmer's market roadside stand to sell the excess produce. A member pays the chapter a small percent of his income for use of the facility. Radio spots over local radio stations advertise the availability of the fresh vegetables.

Above all the project is a learning process. Students take soil samples which are carried by freshmen members to Mississippi State University for analysis. Use of commercial and natural fertilizers are applied at optimum times. The use of pesticides and other cultural practices are also studied.

Yields on some of the plots have been remarkable. One student harvested 500 ears of corn from his garden, 370 of which measured over 12 inches in length.

According to Mr. C. M. Brewer, State FFA Executive Secretary, the new program has been well accepted in the state.

Forty-six different schools have signed up this first year. "The main thing is that all students, no matter what their home situation may be, have a chance to participate and receive recognition." From the looks of the gardens, we think they'll eat well too.

The Old West

(Continued from Page 44)

a park and campground around the structure for visitors and reroute the highway so more persons will have access to it.

Financing for the project came in the form of a grant from the Utah Bicentennial Commission. Fifteen hundred dollars in matching funds were presented to the chapter at a joint session of the Utah State House and Senate. The chapter was officially recognized by the governor and the national Bicentennial chairman for completing the first Bicentennial activity in the state.

Since Bicentennial funds could not be allocated until the project was well underway, the State Board of Education had earlier loaned $1,000 to get the chapter started. That amount was then repaid.

Another cooperator in the project came forward when the chapter was faced with the problems of moving huge amounts of dirt, stone, mortar, and bark. The county road department offered them a back hoe and a front end lift. The boys and their three ag instructors all furnished trucks for hauling in the supplies.

You might ask at this point what the members of this FFA chapter, 286 in all counting local junior high members, received for all their efforts.

"We really enjoyed it for one thing," responds Leo Castagno, chapter president and one of the BOAC committee members. "This is one of the better years we've had in FFA. People see the jackets and say, 'Hey, you're the ones who built the pony express station.' "

Advisor Beckstrom agrees. "It was a real experience for the members who had never spent any time in the desert. It's great, there is a lot of wildlife there and at night you can't believe how quiet it is."

One day as the young work crew was busy putting some finishing touches on the station roof a Volkswagen van from another state raced toward them. Expecting just another of the stream of visitors and picture takers that passed by, the crew continued to work. But this one seemed irritated. "What do you think you're doing?" shouted the concerned passerby, mistaking the work crew for vandals.

As one of the workers began to explain, the entire crew began to laugh, revelling in the fact that their project had passed as the real thing. It was a left-handed compliment but a welcome one.

Protected, the new facility should last over 200 years. It will be a continuous tribute to the pony express and to the FFA members who worked toward recreating its memory.

Business with a Western Touch

"I WAS riding out through the flats one day herding cows and I decided I wanted to be a saddle maker," said Gordie Fields matter-of-factly. Ambitious yet soft spoken, the young man obviously had little trouble making decisions. While we sat talking about his new profession two of his friends were busy penciling a sign to advertise his new store.

Fields has started a business that conbines his natural artistic dexterity with an attachment to the western life of his hometown in Tooele, Utah. He and a friend own and manage a saddle shop.

The transition from sitting on one to putting stitches in it has been as smooth as a polished saddle seat. Gordie recalls, "I looked through a magazine and found a school in Rapid City, South Dakota, the J. M. Saddle Maker school. I quit my job at the ranch, paid my hundred dollar deposit and took off. The school lasted six months and cost $1,500. It was there I met my partner. He was from Wisconsin and wanted to live out West."

The Fields and Avery Saddle Company has been open almost a year and the first months have been a story of heavy investment, active promotion, and a strong start in selling quality items.

"Anything made of leather we can do," says Gordie. Besides the saddles, the two enterprising businessmen make and sell belts, bridles, rope and all kinds of tack. They also supplement the business with the repair of boots and shoes.

Although Gordie says he has never made a saddle he's ashamed of, the quality of his work has sharpened since he made his first saddle in the basement of his home. The highest price he has received to date for one sale is $750. An average priced saddle sells for $400. Much of his original business has been with local ranchers and riders, and a contract he hopes to win is as the supplier of prize saddles awarded to winners in high school rodeo competition.

Fields has an active background in other forms of western activities. While in high school he shoed horses and broke colts. He was also active on the FFA livestock judging team before graduating two years ago. Those activities have now fallen by the wayside, but he still remains active in rodeo. He competes as a roper in both the Rocky Mountain Rodeo Association and in the RCA (Rodeo Cowboy Association).

That's pretty good seat-of-the-pants background when it comes to knowing what to build into a saddle. The process which begins with a bare saddle tree and ends with the polishing process, takes about three days. All the designs are handmade and Gordie maintains that's something that a factory can't begin to duplicate. He asserts, "Mass factory production doesn't spend a lot of time, so they just don't look quite as good. We strive for perfection in our saddles."

As his words trail off, as if on cue, another new customer walked in through the door.

Stitching a design into precut piece of leather, left, Gordie completes another step in saddle making process. Ag teacher Jerry Hurst, center, an avid rider himself checks out the finished product. Business also includes selling tack (right).

FFA in Action

Philip Roby, a member of the James Wood Senior FFA, Winchester, Virginia, designed this float which the FFA built and entered in the famous Apple Blossom Festival parade. It won top honors plus recognition for the FFA.

Floating Publicity

The FFA float in the nationally famous forty-eighth annual Apple Blossom Festival's Grand Feature Parade took the grand Sweepstakes Award.

It was quite an honor for the James Wood Senior FFA of Winchester, Virginia. National President Alpha Trivette was on hand to ride on the float for his fellow Virginia Future Farmers. Miss Susan Ford and Bob Hope were there too as guests of the Festival. Over 200,000 people watched the parade.

Members of FFA spent nearly a month constructing and finishing their float. It told the story of "a chance for GROWTH" and specifically described the three main areas of instruction at James Wood.

One section of the float depicted agricultural production and had members with a calf, pig, lamb and goat. The ag-machinery sales and service area was depicted with a riding mower in a proper setting. And ornamental horticulture was depicted with flowering plants and a blossoming apple tree.

Committee members were Mike Ewing, Johnny Keplinger, Mike Snapp, Harmon Brumback, Paul Chrisman, Randy Jenkins, Carrie Milton, Ricky Brannon, Scott Brannon, Robert Wisecarver, Billy Orndorff, Craig Whitacre, Ronnie Leight, Donnie Leight, Ronnie Kaes, Laura McDaniels, Debbie Braithwaite, and Lynn Alkire.

Floating Trees

The Hemet, California, Chapter turned a work project of planting trees into an enjoyable day.

About 45 members took a bus to Allessandro Island at Perris Lake and brought along 50 young pine trees from the FFA nursery.

When they arrived, the trees were unloaded onto a barge to get out to the island which needed improvement. The trees were lined around the barge edge with the members sitting in the middle. It looked something like a floating Christmas tree farm.

When they got to the island, groups of three were organized and the members scattered all over the island to replace any dead trees around the campgrounds. It took three hours of work and everyone was hungry by then. Advisor Damann announced chow time by engraving F-O-O-D in the sand across the island. The barge returned for the starving souls and they enjoyed a feast of hamburgers.

For recreation, some waded and some daring members went swimming. (*Raena Van Hee, Reporter*)

Attack By Fire

Each year the Grantsville, Utah, Chapter tackles a big BOAC project.

The objective for 1974-75 was to make their county livestock complex a neater place.

"The nature of our major project was to clean up the general landscape of the Tooele County Livestock Complex, paint all the buidings, repair the existing individual animal pens, and repair both the sheep and swine show rings. Plus we constructed new loading chutes; one for cattle and the other for sheep and swine. We also constructed small holding corrals for each chute. Bleachers were also constructed to provide better seating facilities for the greater comfort of the spectators during the livestock auction.

"Our project was completed after 398 man hours of work. The results looked grand. Old fences were removed and hauled away along with other debris. Every building was repaired and repainted. It took 125 gallons of paint for the buildings. The complete cost to the county commission and the livestock committee was around $2,200. The livestock show was held on July 25, 26, and 27, 1974, at the complex. It was a great success.

"Then on August 14, 1974, at about noon two small boys were playing in one of the buildings, a match was struck, the boys escaped, but a few moments later the building was on fire and the fire was spreading to the other buildings. The fire department was called but arrived too late. The black smoke lifted into the noonday sky. It was gone. Nothing was left except black smoking timbers, twisted pipe and a crowd of sad people.

"The stock show committee held a meeting and decided to rebuild the fire destroyed complex. After lots of study and many meetings the county commission announced they would give the stock show $20,000 to rebuild."

FFA has helped with the cost studies and redesigning and will be back to work rebuilding soon. (*Belinda Worthington, Reporter*)

Sponsored Time

Four future teachers of vocational agriculture are much more familiar with the FFA—what it is and what it does—because of their experiences at National FFA Convention last October.

They attended the convention on financial grants from three interested FFA chapters—Marlington, Marysville, and River View.

All four of the future teachers are students at Ohio State University and traveled with Dr. Leon Boucher.

(Continued on Page 51)

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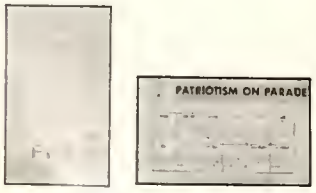

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The retiring state officers in South Dakota honored University President Briggs for his loyal support of FFA.

FFA in Action

(Continued from Page 48)

Top Assistance

South Dakota State University President H. M. Briggs was recently presented a "Distinguished Service Award" by the South Dakota Association.

Mr. Briggs was cited for his assistance to FFA during his 17 years as SDSU president. He retired July 1.

The award also cited SDSU for 47 years of hosting the South Dakota FFA convention and noted the assistance from SDSU staff during the annual event and other FFA judging contests conducted there.

Silver Anniversary

Approximately 200 Future Farmers came together at Ponaganset High School in Glocester, Rhode Island, for the twenty-fifth annual state FFA convention there.

Association President Harvey Dinerman opened the convention with enthusiastic greetings to FFA members. National Vice-President of the FFA from the Eastern Region, Gary Kelley, gave remarks on the FFA and wished all participants well.

In addition to the usual FFA contests of public speaking, parliamentary procedure and Creed speaking, they held a debate contest and a demonstration contest.

The newly elected president of the association is Loren Andrews of Chariho Chapter.

An Alert Plan

A special safety project for the Sandpoint, Idaho, Chapter is informing the local community about the Medic Alert Foundation.

The Medic Alert Foundation is a charitable non-profit organization and has set up a system of saving people's lives who have hidden medical problems. It provides registrants a Medic Alert bracelet or necklace. Also a complete file of each member is kept at the center in Turlock, California. In an emergency a doctor or hospital or anyone could quickly learn that the person is allergic, has a heart condition, or other health problems.

The Medic Alert project was a major part of the chapter's community safety program in the FFA Farm Safety program.

FFA had to conduct a thorough publicity program in their community on Medic Alert because no other program of this type has ever been held here. It is estimated that one out of five persons has a hidden medical problem and is not protected by the MA emblem in the event of an accident. "Many people didn't even know what Medic Alert was before we started."

The safety committee undertook the planning of the program with nearly all chapter members taking part in the various activities. They put up many posters in Sandpoint stores and schools along with order form canisters for people to take. They also wrote and broadcasted four radio programs.

"We gave programs about Medic Alert to St. Joseph's Altar Society, Sandpoint Kiwanis Club, and the Sandpoint Chapter of American Association of Re-

(Continued on Page 52)

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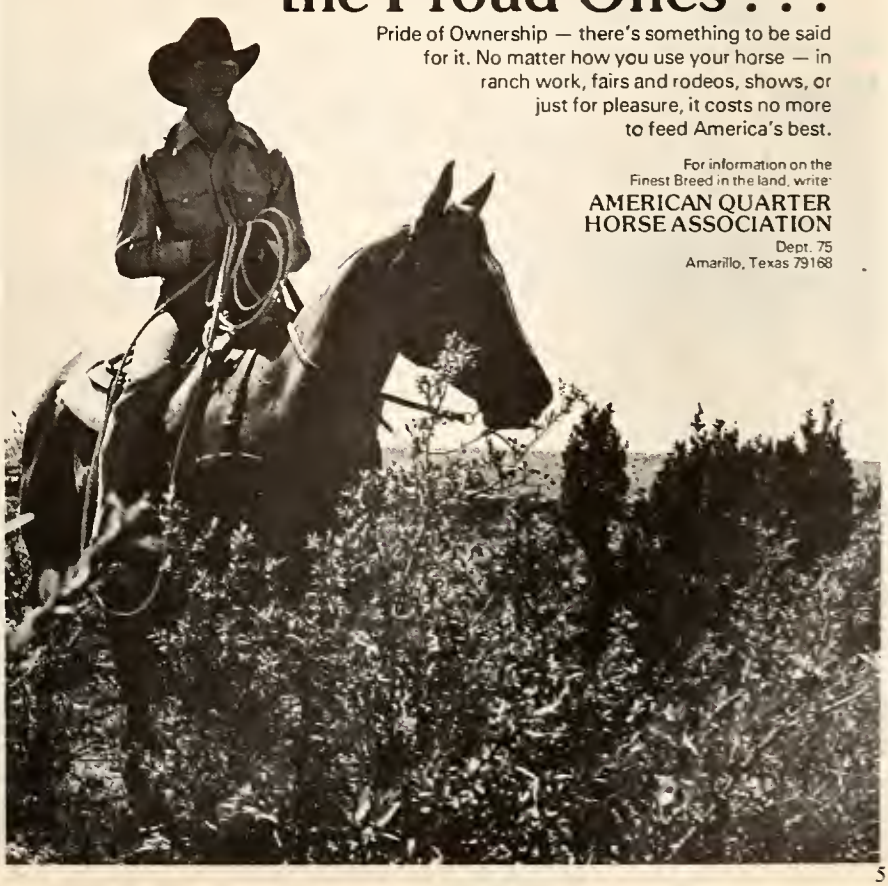

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FFA in Action

(Continued from Page 51)

tired Persons. They were all very interested. We also visited five elementary schools in our area and showed a film entitled, "The Medic Alert Story," to the seventh and eighth graders. We also showed this film to both boys and girls physical education classes at our high school and at the junior high. We estimate that we contacted over 1,400 students and told them about Medic Alert."

To end the program FFA distributed over 1,000 Medic Alert order pamphlets through the local newspaper. (*Tom Woodland, Secretary*)

International Swap

Buffalo, Wyoming, is the new home of James Poulter, who came half-way around the world to work on Wyoming ranches. A native of Temuka, New Zealand, James arrived in Buffalo for a three-months stay at the Bill Ritchie ranches. He is a recent graduate from his hometown high school and is a member of New Zealand's counterpart to the FFA, the Young Farmers Club.

Although Wyoming is much drier than New Zealand, James said farms around Temuka do use a large amount of irrigation. He has worked on a farm raising 1,400 Romney ewes, 100 head of cattle and grew 100 acres of wheat and barley crops.

While James comes to Wyoming, Buffalo FFA sent Larry Elsom to Sweden as part of FFA's Work Experience Abroad program.

Larry received the degree of State Farmer this year and has served as parliamentarian and treasurer. He also won the state Fish and Wildlife Management Proficiency Award. (*Janice Ritchie, Reporter*)

The Big Pumpkin

Each year, Twin Valley, Pennsylvania, FFA kicks off its Pumpkin Growing Contest for their community.

The contest actually begins in the spring of the year when FFA members visit the schools and distribute the rules for the contest and suggestions for growing the pumpkins to the elementary students and to both elementary and high school teachers. For last year's contest over 1,000 packets of seed were distributed to interested students and teachers, who had until October to try to grow the heaviest pumpkin, pumpkin with the largest circumference, or most unusually shaped pumpkin.

Trophies were awarded to the grand champion winners in each of the three categories and to the teacher entering the heaviest pumpkin. Grand champion trophy winners in 1974 were: Most Unusual Shaped Pumpkin—James Samuels of sixth grade; Heaviest Pumpkin—Kevin Martin of first grade with a 33-pound entry; and Scott Stoltzfus of the fifth grade with a 40-inch pumpkin—Pumpkin with the Largest Circumference. Mrs. Barbara Reznick was the winner of the trophy to a teacher for the heaviest pumpkin, with an 8-pound entry.

The tenth grade officers ran the pumpkin contest award night because it was held the evening the senior chapter officers left for the National FFA Convention. The chairman was Darrel Stoltzfus, tenth grade secretary.

Owasso, Oklahoma, FFA President Dee Sokolosky awarded an Honorary Chapter Farmer degree to Doctor Perry W. Evans who was the attending physician when Dee was born seventeen years earlier.

Best Feed Patch

The 1974-75 FFA wildlife feed patch contest at Gretna Junior High in Virginia was won by Frank McGregor. Second place was won by Lynn Tucker and third place was won by Clarence Hancock.

Along with the recognition of having the best wildlife plot, the members were presented prizes; first place winner received a gun cleaning kit, second place received a gun case, and third place winner received a shell belt. Frank's plot will be entered in the Pittsylvania County FFA seed plot contest competition later in the year. The county contest is sponsored by the Gretna Izaak Walton League.

Last year Gretna Junior High FFA members received 120 bags of seed, each capable of seeding one-eighth acre. Each bag contained such seeds as soybeans, sorghum, rape, peas and millet. Each of these serves as feed for different wildlife during the winter.

Contest Helpers

The Collegiate Chapter at the University of Missouri, in Columbia, recently helped conduct the state vocational agriculture and FFA contests.

This involved many chapter members in organizing and conducting contests as well as the operation of dormitory

FFA Queen Bonnie Gowins and president, Ron Casey, rode an old buckboard in a local parade to commemorate past fads. It was entry of Bloom-Carroll FFA.

type facilities for participants to stay in.

Another activity in which the collegiate FFA has been involved is an exchange program with a collegiate chapter at Purdue University. Last April five Missouri chapter members visited Purdue and they returned the visit in October. This seems to be a worthwhile venture and this year the chapter is trying to set up a similar program with another nearby university. (Don Nikodim, Reporter)

Guessing Games

Community involvement for the Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin, FFA includes helping Rural Life Association and the Chamber of Commerce with the Farm-City Picnic.

Twenty members of the chapter helped set up and clean up for the 500 farm and city business people who ate together. The chapter's Rural Life Committee did the work.

An extra attraction of the picnic was a series of guessing contests especially for the city folks like how much does this tractor cost new, how many glasses of milk in this bulk tank and how many ears of corn in this bushel basket.

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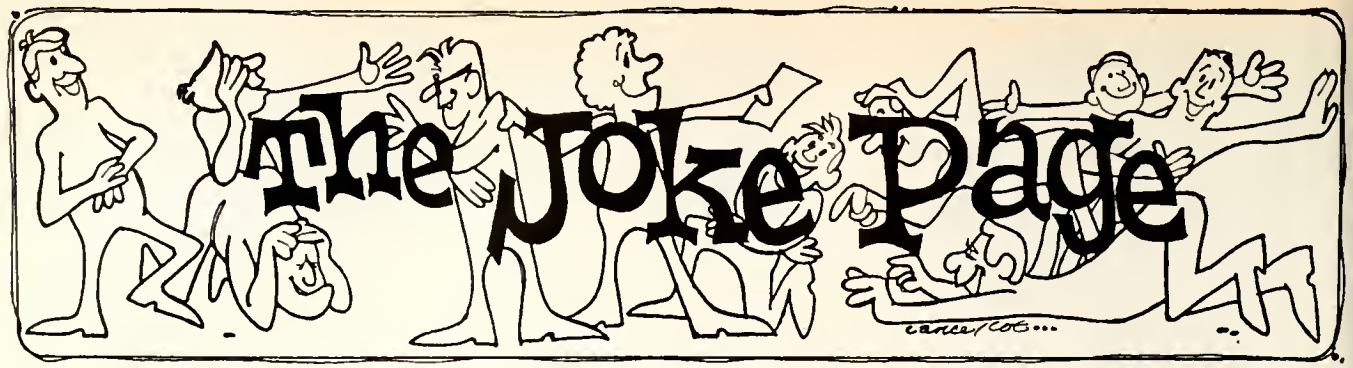


Celia: *"Are you on a seafood diet?"*
Melia: *"Yes, all the food I see, I eat."*

Margaret Wooding
Nathalie, Virginia

Bob: *"Did you hear about the sports car that was wrapped around the telephone pole?"*
Tim: *"No, why?"*
Bob: *"Well, I guess that's the way the Mercedes-Benz."*

Marcus Hochstetler
Fayette, Ohio

"That shot should fix her up unless she's one in a million with unusual side effects."

At one of our movie theaters they're featuring "Earthquake" and "The Towering Inferno" and calling it "Shake and Bake."

Carl Prince
Rockwell City, Iowa

An elderly man came to the city from his home in the hills for the first time last week and died when he saw his first automobile.

It was most unfortunate he did not see it in time.

Jim Mauk
Pleasant Hill, Missouri

He: *"Will you marry me?"*
She: *"No, but I'll always admire your good taste."*

Wesley Thorn
Carthage, Missouri

Q. What is a tornado?
A. Mother Nature doing the twist.

Debra Tate
Somerville, Tennessee

Psychiatrist: *"I'm not aware of your problem so perhaps you should start at the beginning."*
Patient: *"All right. In the beginning I created the heavens and the earth . . ."*

Kathleen Bureau
Astoria, Oregon

Bill: *"What do you think of the Grand Canyon?"*
Tom: *"It's just gorges!"*

Thomas LaMance
Modesto, California

The treasurer of the women's aid club delivered a deposit to the bank and handed it to the slightly deaf teller saying it was "aid" money.

The teller, thinking she said "egg" money, responded pleasantly, *"My, it looks like the old hens have been doing right well."*

David Dillinger
Erie, Kansas

Casey: *"Why can't Greenhands eat pickles?"*
Don: *"I don't know."*
Casey: *"Because they can't get their heads in the jar."*

Mike Howell
Wells, Nevada

Joe: *"Say, Jack, how did your wife get so mangled up?"*
Jack: *"Well, you know that new camping trailer I bought?"*
Joe: *"Sure."*
Jack: *"Well, we were coming down Highway 71 and she stepped out back to hang up the clothes."*

Larry Small
Haughton, Louisiana

Question: *What happened when the canary flew into the lawn mower?*
Answer: *He came out shredded tweet.*

John Koziarz
Rome, New York

A real estate man was using high pressure tactics to sell some poor farm land, *"All this land needs is a little water, a cool breeze and some good people to settle here."*

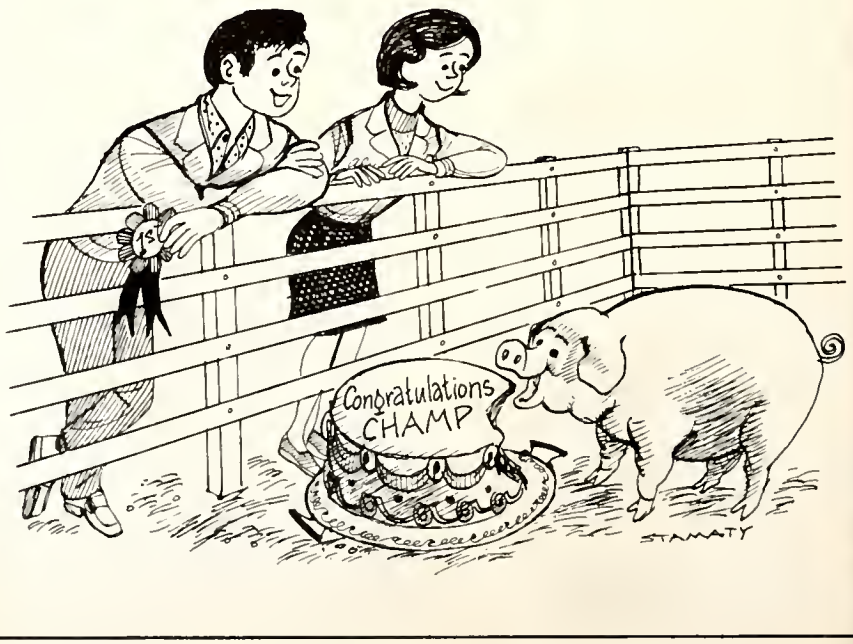
"Maybe so," replied the farmer, *"but that's all the devil needs too."*

Blossom Perrott
Sharpsburg, Maryland

Milly: *"Who do you like best, White Sox or Red Sox?"*
Silly: *"Nylons, they get more runs."*

Lori Zimmerman
Darlington, Wisconsin

Charlie, the Greenhand



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